

September 07, 2015

Dear Mrs. Thompson's 6th Grade Parents,

As you know, our children's future employers expect students today to possess basic skills in science, technology, and engineering. As 21<sup>st</sup> century learners, your child will need to make difficult decisions based on their knowledge of emerging science and technology. Participation in a science fair will provide students with the opportunity to practice scientific and/or engineering exercises while they apply these skills to a subject matter of interest to them.



Students will discover something amazing as they complete a science fair project in addition to developing scientific/research skills and enhancing mathematic skills. Students will learn from "doing" and following scientific protocols that help students' master self-confidence, maturity, mathematic analysis, public speaking, and the ability to solve problems. Science fairs often result in new and important inventions & discoveries. I am hoping that your child "discovers" the answer to their problem and, at the same time, "teaches" me something I didn't already know.

Butler Elementary will be holding a science fair in mid-February and all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be **required** to participate for a grade. Over the next several months, we will be working on your son's/daughter's individual project's problem identification, researching questions and answers, variables and controls, materials list, procedures, data table/logs, and required forms **IN CLASS!!** The experimentation of the project will largely be completed at home but some experiments (upon teacher approval) may be conducted during the school day/afterschool. It would be **GREAT** if you could take pictures of them completing the steps of their experiment &/or final result. Students have a project guide and tentative timelines (*also listed on back posted on Edmodo and class website*). I will be checking in periodically to ensure completion of each of the scientific tasks.

I encourage parent(s) to offer emotional support, assistance related to resources/information, and supervision of experiment/engineering designs, while **allowing the students to complete the project by themselves**. In class, your child will have numerous opportunities to receive one-on-one instruction/feedback. I also encourage you to visit a site that I created a few years back, [www.eastsidesciencefair.weebly.com](http://www.eastsidesciencefair.weebly.com), to find valuable information vital to the successful completion of their science project. This website was created to help guide your student with their project, provide additional resources/review of each step, and 24-hour access to volunteer sign-up forms, project deadlines, judging rubrics, and other resources.

Also, attached is a form looking for judges/volunteers during science fair AND board ordering information. Your child will need a display board for their final presentation. I will be placing and order for boards and headers by late October and will need you to either purchase a board or have one brought in by early NOVEMBER. I will have the student type and print out anything they need for their display boards - nothing can be handwritten. All volunteers/judges will be contacted in January.

Please don't hesitate to call or email with any questions. I am also available after school until 4 or 5:30 PM most days to provide extra assistance if needed. Thanks in advance for the support on your child's science potential and development.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. B. Thompson*



# 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE TENTATIVE SCIENCE FAIR TIMELINE

August-September	Brainstorm possible topics and testable questions. Turn-in testable question OR idea for engineering project (Edmodo) Turn-in 5+ appropriate research questions (use "Background Research" worksheet to help with coming up with good researchable questions.)
September 11 <sup>th</sup>	Research completed, recorded on SF report along with reference citations.
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	SEFI forms due!!
September 18 <sup>th</sup>	Hypothesis, Variables & Controls, Materials, and Procedures DUE on SF report
September 18 -December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Experimentation/Design Work
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Data Analysis (completed graphs, data tables, etc.) & Conclusion
January	Print reports, work on display boards, and practice presentations
Mid-February	SCIENCE FAIR -- still working on confirming date.
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tri-State Regional Science Fair (Tri-State, Angola: 8 am to 12 judging - Awards at 4 pm)
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	State Science Fair (IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN)