

## Science Fair Parent Letter

Dear Students and Parents:

It's time to start working on Hopkins Middle School's Science Fair! Enclosed is a schedule outlining due dates and important information regarding your child's project. Ample time has been scheduled and work has been spread out, so students can complete the work at a comfortable pace.

This is a **major** project and will represent a **significant portion** of your child's grade for the next grading period(s). The primary objective of this project is to have students approach a problem scientifically. This includes:

1. Asking questions and forming hypotheses
2. Creating experiments to test those hypotheses
3. Organizing data and drawing conclusions
4. Writing about scientific research

The project must be **experimental** in nature as opposed to research oriented. In other words, students must do a test, survey, or experiment to determine the answer to their question instead of just looking it up in a book. We encourage students to pick topics that they are genuinely interested in, since they will be working on these projects for the next several months. **Topics must be chosen from the South Carolina Standard Course of Study for Science, which is attached.** Topics must also be "**original**" - something students do not already know.

Project guidelines state that all work must be done by the students; however, assistance may be provided by teachers, parents, etc. It is very difficult to work alone without the exchange of ideas, so we encourage you to brainstorm with your child on different ideas and possible topics your child may want to pursue. Please take a moment to review all the attachments with your child in order to generate topic ideas.

We are looking forward to working with you to make this a valuable learning experience for your child. We appreciate your support on this important project. As acknowledgement and part of your child's homework, please sign, date, and return the bottom portion of this letter by **November 9, 2018.**

Sincerely,

Hopkins Middle Science Department

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**Homework Entire Project DUE Monday, January 15, 2019. Judging Date: January 18, 2019**

I have reviewed the Science Fair information and calendar with my child, \_\_\_\_\_, (Printed Name of Child) and we understand the requirements for a successful Science Fair Project.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

In grades six through eight, the standards and performance indicators for the science and engineering practices and core science content, transition students to developing and planning controlled investigations to create more explicit and detailed models and explanations. The seven core concepts (patterns; cause and effect; scale, proportion, and quantity; systems and system models; energy and matter; structure and function; and stability and change) are reinforced in the appropriate context of the

core science content through hands-on instruction in the classroom. Science in the middle school provides students with the foundation to be successful in high school science courses, by providing a range of content in the life, earth, and physical sciences. These academic standards and performance indicators establish the practices and core content that South Carolina’s students should know and be able to do by the end of grade six.

The four core areas of the grade six standards include: • Earth’s Weather and Climate • Energy Transfer and Conservation • Diversity of Life – Classification and Animals • Diversity of Life – Protists, Fungi, and Plants

The four core areas of the grade seven standards include: • Classification and Conservation of Matter • Organization in Living Systems • Heredity – Inheritance and Variation of Traits • Interactions of Living Systems and the Environment

The five core areas of the grade eight standards include: • Forces and Motion • Waves • Earth’s Place in the Universe • Earth Systems and Resources • Earth’s History and Diversity of Life

**\*More detailed Standard Course of Study objectives can be found at:**

[https://ed.sc.gov/scdoe/assets/file/agency/ccr/Standards-Learning/documents/South Carolina Academic Standards and Performance Indicators for Science 2014.pdf](https://ed.sc.gov/scdoe/assets/file/agency/ccr/Standards-Learning/documents/South_Carolina_Academic_Standards_and_Performance_Indicators_for_Science_2014.pdf)

Helpful Science fair Idea Sites:

<https://artsandsciences.sc.edu/cse/ScienceFair/project-resources>

<https://www.education.com/science-fair/middle-school/>

<https://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project-ideas/middle-school>

<https://learning-center.homesciencetools.com/article/junior-high-projects/>

### **Science Fair Judging Rubric**

<b>Judging Rubric</b>	<b>Project Title:</b>		<b>Total Points:</b>
<b>Part I Scientific Procedure:</b>	IMPRESSIVE	ADEQUATE	MINIMAL

Clear & specific Question	4	3	2	1	0
Clear & specific Hypothesis	4	3	2	1	0
Complete & thorough Method (Step by step)	4	3	2	1	0
Complete & thorough Data (logs, graphs, tables, photos...)	4	3	2	1	0
Conclusion supported by Data	4	3	2	1	0
Conclusion relevant to Hypothesis	4	3	2	1	0
<b>Part II Originality:</b>	4	3	2	1	0
Original topic or approach	4	3	2	1	0
<b>Part III Simplicity:</b>	4	3	2	1	0
Appropriate Materials & Construction	4	3	2	1	0
Clarity of overall project	4	3	2	1	0

**PROPOSAL- DUE November 13, 2018**

For my science fair project I am asking this question: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What standard course of study goal did you choose? \_\_\_\_\_

**HYPOTHESIS- DUE November 13, 2018**

Here is what I am predicting the answer will be to my proposal question:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials- DUE November 20, 2018**

Please list all materials you're using for your project:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Procedures- DUE November 20, 2018**

Please write all procedures step by step.

**RESULTS- Due January 11, 2019**

Please write the results of your experiment:

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**Conclusion- DUE January 11, 2019**

Please write your conclusion for your experiment:

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