

SCIENCE FAIR INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION

Abington Junior High School Science Department



September 2006

As part of the honors science curriculum, 7th and 8th grade students complete a "science fair" project. Science fair is an independent, at-home project that incorporates the scientific method into science application. Students explore a scientific investigation based on research and experimentation. This project proves to be challenging; yet, the benefits are numerous. This intensive project spans several months, requiring time management skills and a diligent work effort. While students will receive instruction from individual teachers, the department has standardized the overall project details. In an attempt to augment the benefits of this project, the science department has devised the following format:

1. **Science Fair Handbook** (see attached): This is an overall, general description of the project. We encourage you to carefully review the contents of the handbook and keep it as a reference throughout the project.
2. **Science Fair Rubric** (see attached): This is the assessment tool that will be used in each honors science class.
3. **Science Fair Due Dates:** In order to promote time-management skills, project components will be checked on a preset timeline. Please refer to the chart below for checkpoint dates. To further assist students, we have established a distribution email for project checkpoints and communication. We encourage parents to monitor progress.

<i>Science Fair Project Component</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Science Fair Assignment Form (blue sheet)	9/29/06
Project Proposal: Hypothesis, Procedure & Materials	10/6/06
***MCSRC Protocol Papers (only those students interested in having their project judged to represent AJHS at the county fair)	10/6/06
Background Research Paper- rough draft (to include references)	10/7/06
Experimentation Data Notebook	12/1/06
Data Analysis (to include graphs), Conclusion and Recommendation	12/8/06
Abstract	12/8/06
Display Board (final due date)	12/11/06

4. **School Science Fair:** To showcase student work, the science department will host a school fair to display science fair boards to the school community and public. The school fair date is set for **December 14, 2006**. We encourage you to attend.
5. **Montgomery County Science Research Competition (***MCSRC):** In past years, AJHS has received top honors at the county science fair. Among all private and public schools in Montgomery County, AJHS has been awarded two third places and one first place. Individually, our students have received top honors and several special awards. The students take great pride in their work; it is a worthwhile experience. During the school fair, students may elect to have their project judged to represent AJHS at the county fair (Please note that project judging does not guarantee representation at the fair). Students who elect to have their project judged need to follow **strict** protocol for project selection and completion of International Science and Engineering Fair paperwork. Any ISEF paperwork **not** submitted accurately or timely will disqualify project eligibility for county judging.

Student **opting out of judging for MCSRC may **not** investigate the following topics: human subjects, nonhuman vertebrate subjects, recombinant DNA, hazardous substances or devices, pathogens, human/animal tissue and controlled substances.**

After reading this letter and reviewing the project attachments, we request that you (students and parents) complete the attached *Science Fair Assignment Form* and return to the individual science teachers by **Friday, September 29, 2006**.