October 13, 2017

Dear Middle School LPSEF contenders and Families,

Welcome to the kickoff of the 2017/2018 St. John’s Science Fair! Please thoroughly read and understand all of the information in this letter and in your Science Fair Packet. If you follow the steps below and meet all of your deadlines, you are likely to have an enjoyable, stress-free and enjoyable science fair project this year! And you will be eligible for selection to represent St. John the Evangelist Catholic School at the Long’s Peak Science and Engineering Fair in February 2018!

Project Grading Guidelines

Total Project = 125pts

* Deadlines Met
  + Topic Selection Form 5pts
  + Research Question & Hypothesis 5pts
  + Bibliography and Rough Draft of Research Plan/Procedure 5pts
  + All ISEF forms complete and turned in on time 5pts
  + Halfway Checkpoint Form 5pts
* Quality Assessment
  + See the Judging and Critique Sheet for Breakdown 100pts

Timeline of Due Dates and Activities:

**Science Fair Kickoff! Friday, October 13, 2017**

* Today is the day you need to start thinking about your science fair project! Start narrowing down your topic and begin your research NOW!!!

**Topic Selection Form turned in to your science teacher: Friday, October 20, 2017**

* You received this form the week of October 13th.
* Your teacher will review your topic and give his/her approval on Monday, November 9th. If your topic is not approved, you will be required to find a new topic as soon as possible.
* The bulk of your research should also be done by this date! Don’t just pick a topic and stop there. Your research question and hypothesis are due next week. You must do research before you can complete that step!
* More information about how to select your topic can be found in Part I of the Science Fair packet.
* Meeting this deadline earns you 5 points on your science fair project grade.

**Research Question and Hypothesis due: Friday, October 27, 2017**

* See Part I and Part II in the science fair packet for information about writing your research question and hypothesis
* A hypothesis has two parts - Incomplete hypotheses will be returned to be reworked.
* A hypothesis should be longer than just one sentence. See the example in Part III of the science fair packet.
* Meeting this deadline and turning in a COMPLETE, thorough, research question and hypothesis will earn you 5 pts on your science fair project grade.

**Bibliography, Rough Draft of Research Plan with Procedure Due: Wednesday, November 1, 2017**

* See the sample research plan in your packet to ensure you meet all of the requirements.
* Follow guidelines for bibliography in the Science Fair packet
* Your procedure must clearly describe what you are going to do in your experiment. Make sure it is detailed enough that someone could replicate your experiment from these instructions. (Include all necessary materials, equipment, steps, etc).
* Meeting this deadline will earn you 5 pts on your science fair project.

**ISEF forms due Friday, November 3, 2017**

**Friday, November 10, 2017**

* Forms can be found at [*www.societyforscience.org/isef/document*](http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/document)
* All Students must complete and print out forms I, IA, IB **(Due 11/3/17)**
* Form IA must include the FINAL DRAFT of your Research Plan with Procedure.
* Please refer to the forms table in the science fair packet to see if you require any additional forms. If you require any additional forms, those forms are also due on **11/10/17**.
* Turning in these forms on time earns you 5 pts on your science fair project grade.

**Halfway Checkpoint Monday, November 27, 2017**

* Complete and turn in this form which will be given to you by your teacher
* Turning in this completed form on time earns you 5 pts on your science fair project grade.

Now, you should be ready to run your experiment! **Your completed science fair project is due January 10, 2018**. It’s up to you to keep moving forward: conduct your experiment, organize your data, build your display, write your abstract. See the Science Fair Packet for all requirements. All of these activities must take place outside of school. You have one month from the time of the halfway checkpoint to due date. This is plenty of time to complete your project. DON’T wait until the weekend before the project is due to conduct your experiment.

Have fun, and happy experimenting!!

Mr. Gerkin