

# HSA -WACO

## SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT BOOKLET

### 2011-2012



THIS BOOKLET BELONGS TO: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I have read this booklet with my child.

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

THIS BOOKLET IS TO BE KEPT IN STUDENT'S BINDER AS A REFERENCE



# Introducing Science Projects

Dear Parents:

Your child will have the chance to solve his or her own science mystery by doing a science project, a mandatory assignment for your child's class.

Since your child has the chance to pick his or her own science project question, from the physics of making music to the biology of tide pool animals, he or she will have the chance to experience the joy of discovery.

When starting a science project, a student chooses a question he or she would like to answer. Then, he or she does targeted library and Web research to gain the background information needed to formulate a hypothesis and design an experimental procedure. After writing a report to summarize this background research, the student performs the experiment, draws conclusions, and communicates the results to teachers and classmates.

Through time management and project planning, your child will take on the responsibility of completing a project over at least a ten-week period. Your child will discover his or her creativity by brainstorming science project questions and figuring out how to display the process and results. A science project, through its challenge to ask questions and discover, is truly a real-world experience in innovation, similar to what scientists do in their careers.

We will provide your child with sufficient support to succeed, so that he or she develops enthusiasm for scientific discovery. First, your child will accomplish each step of the project by doing homework assignments. We will review the assignments at key checkpoints along the way, so that you won't face helping your child do a project the last night before the fair. Second, we have included a basic guide (enclosed) of how to help without getting over-involved.

To get started, read through this packet: Student Science Project Schedule and Guide to Science Projects.

You will have the opportunity to approve the project your student selects by signing a Science Project Proposal Form, one of the early assignments on the attached schedule.

If you have any questions, please email me at [nkuzey@harmonytx.org](mailto:nkuzey@harmonytx.org)

Sincerely,

Numan Kuzey  
Science Fair Coordinator

Included:

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Special thanks to [www.sciencebuddies.org](http://www.sciencebuddies.org)



# Parent's Guide to Science Projects

## Information on the Scientific Method

Science projects should follow the six-step scientific method. These steps are shown on the chart below. A comprehensive Science Buddies Project Guide ([www.sciencebuddies.org](http://www.sciencebuddies.org)) provides direction on all of the steps.

## Time Management

See your child's Student Science Project Schedule for all of the key due dates. Help your child meet these dates by getting out your family calendar and marking the interim due dates. Block out times for trips to the library and other work time. Look for any scheduling conflicts, such as vacations, and discuss issues with the teacher.

## How to Help

As your child works on his or her project, he or she will likely face stumbling blocks. To help, ask questions to help your child figure things out; don't just provide the answers. Open-ended questions, such as, "What else could you try to solve this?" or "What is stopping you from going on to the next step?" are best (Fredericks & Asimov, 2001, p.xiii). Sometimes just talking it out can help children get unstuck. If not, ask the teacher for help. Respect your child's independence in learning by helping at the right level.

## Helping at the Right Level at Every Step

Project Step	Helping at the right level:	Going too far:
Ask a question.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussing with your child whether a project idea seems practical</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Picking an idea and project for your child: A topic not of interest will turn into a boring project.</li> </ul>
Do background research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taking your child to the library</li> <li>Helping your child think of keywords for Internet searches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doing an Internet search and printing out articles</li> </ul>
Construct a hypothesis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asking how the hypothesis relates to an experiment the child can do</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing the hypothesis yourself</li> </ul>
Test the hypothesis by doing an experiment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assisting in finding materials</li> <li>Monitoring safety (you should always observe any steps involving heat or electricity)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing the experimental procedure</li> <li>Doing the experiment, except for potentially unsafe steps</li> <li>Telling your child step-by-step what to do</li> </ul>
Analyze data and draw a conclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asking how your child will record the data in a data table</li> <li>Reminding your child to tie the data back to the hypothesis and draw a conclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a spreadsheet and making the graphs yourself, even if your child helps type in values</li> <li>Announcing the conclusion yourself</li> </ul>
Communicate your results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a presentation is assigned, acting as the audience</li> <li>If a display board is assigned, helping to bring it to school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing any of the text on the display board</li> <li>Determining the color scheme and other graphic elements</li> </ul>

Steps of the Scientific Method	Detailed Help for Each Step
<p><b>Ask a Question:</b> The scientific method starts when you ask a question about something that you observe: How, What, When, Who, Which, Why, or Where?</p> <p>And, in order for the scientific method to answer the question it must be about something that you can measure, preferably with a number.</p>	<p><a href="#">Your Question</a></p>
<p><b>Do Background Research:</b> Rather than starting from scratch in putting together a plan for answering your question, you want to be a savvy scientist using library and Internet research to help you find the best way to do things and insure that you don't repeat mistakes from the past.</p>	<p><a href="#">Background Research Plan</a><a href="#">Finding Information</a><a href="#">Bibliography</a><a href="#">Research Paper</a></p>
<p><b>Construct a Hypothesis:</b> A hypothesis is an educated guess about how things work: "If _____<i>[I do this]</i> _____, then _____<i>[this]</i>_____ will happen."</p> <p>You must state your hypothesis in a way that you can easily measure, and of course, your hypothesis should be constructed in a way to help you answer your original question.</p>	<p><a href="#">Variables</a><a href="#">Variables for Beginners</a><a href="#">Hypothesis</a></p>
<p><b>Test Your Hypothesis by Doing an Experiment:</b> Your experiment tests whether your hypothesis is true or false. It is important for your experiment to be a fair test. You conduct a fair test by making sure that you change only one factor at a time while keeping all other conditions the same.</p> <p>You should also repeat your experiments several times to make sure that the first results weren't just an accident.</p>	<p><a href="#">Experimental Procedure</a><a href="#">Materials List</a><a href="#">Conducting an Experiment</a></p>
<p><b>Analyze Your Data and Draw a Conclusion:</b> Once your experiment is complete, you collect your measurements and analyze them to see if your hypothesis is true or false.</p> <p>Scientists often find that their hypothesis was false, and in such cases they will construct a new hypothesis starting the entire process of the scientific method over again. Even if they find that their hypothesis was true, they may want to test it again in a new way.</p>	<p><a href="#">Data Analysis &amp; Graphs</a><a href="#">Conclusions</a></p>
<p><b>Communicate Your Results:</b> To complete your science fair project you will communicate your results to others in a final report and/or a display board. Professional scientists do almost exactly the same thing by publishing their final report in a scientific journal or by presenting their results on a poster at a scientific meeting.</p>	<p><a href="#">Final Report</a><a href="#">Abstract</a><a href="#">Display Board</a><a href="#">Science Fair Judging</a></p>

Even though we show the scientific method as a series of steps, keep in mind that new information or thinking might cause a scientist to back up and repeat steps at any point during the process. A process like the scientific method that involves such backing up and repeating is called an **iterative process**.

Throughout the process of doing your science fair project, you should keep a journal containing all of your important ideas and information. This journal is called a [laboratory notebook](#).

## Finding an Idea for Your Science Fair Project

One of the most important considerations in picking a topic for your science fair project is to find a subject that you consider interesting. You'll be spending a lot of time on it, so you don't want your science fair project to be about something that is boring.

We know that finding a topic is the hardest part of a science fair project, and sometimes you just need a little help focusing on what sorts of topics would be of interest to you. To help you find a science fair project idea that can hold your interest, Science Buddies has developed the Topic Selection Wizard. By answering a series of questions about everyday interests and activities, you will help us identify an area of science that is best for you.

## Your Science Fair Project Question

The question that you select for your science fair project is the cornerstone of your work. The research and experiment you will be conducting all revolve around finding an answer to the question you are posing. It is important to select a question that is going to be interesting to work on for at least a month or two and a question that is specific enough to allow you to find the answer with a simple experiment. A scientific question usually starts with: How, What, When, Who, Which, Why, or Where.

### Examples

These are examples of good science fair project questions:

- When is the best time to plant soy beans?
- Which material is the best insulator?
- How does arch curvature affect load carrying strength?
- How do different foundations stand up to earthquakes?
- What sugars do yeast use?

Some science fair projects that involve human subjects, vertebrate animals (animals with a backbone) or animal tissue, pathogenic agents, DNA, or controlled or hazardous substances, need SRC (Scientific Review Committee) approval from your science fair BEFORE you start experimentation. Now is the time to start thinking about getting approval if necessary for your science project.

**These are examples of bad science fair project topics that you should avoid:**

Science Project Topics to Avoid	Why
Any topic that boils down to a simple preference or taste comparison. For example, "Which tastes better: Coke or Pepsi?"	Such experiments don't involve the kinds of numerical measurements we want in a science fair project. They are more of a survey than an experiment.
Most consumer product testing of the "Which is best?" type. This includes comparisons of popcorn, bubblegum, make-up, detergents, cleaning products, and paper towels.	These projects only have scientific validity if the Investigator fully understands the science behind why the product works and applies that understanding to the experiment. While many consumer products are easy to use, the science behind them is often at the level of a graduate student in college.
Any topic that requires people to recall things they did in the past.	The data tends to be unreliable.
Effect of colored light on plants	Several people do this project at almost every science fair. You can be more creative!
Effect of music or talking on plants	Difficult to measure.
Effect of running, music, video games, or almost anything on blood pressure	The result is either obvious (the heart beats faster when you run) or difficult to measure with proper controls (the effect of music).
Effect of color on memory, emotion, mood, taste, strength, etc.	Highly subjective and difficult to measure.
Any topic that requires measurements that will be extremely difficult to make or repeat, given your equipment.	Without measurement, you can't do science.
Graphology or handwriting analysis	Questionable scientific validity.
Astrology or ESP	No scientific validity.
Any topic that requires dangerous, hard to find, expensive, or illegal materials.	Violates the rules of virtually any science fair.
Any topic that requires drugging, pain, or injury to a live vertebrate animal.	Violates the rules of virtually any science fair.
Any topic that creates unacceptable risk (physical or psychological) to a human subject.	Violates the rules of virtually any science fair.
Any topic that involves collection of tissue samples from living humans or vertebrate animals.	Violates the rules of virtually any science fair.

## Science Fair Project Question Checklist

If you don't have good answers for the questions below, then you probably should look for a better science fair project question to answer.

Here are some things to consider as you finalize your question:

What Makes a Good Science Fair Project Question?	For a Good Science Fair Project Question, You Should Answer "Yes" to Every Question
Is the topic interesting enough to read about, then work on for the next couple months?	Yes / No
Can you find at least 3 sources of written information on the subject?	Yes / No
Can you measure changes to the important factors (variables) using a number that represents a quantity such as a count, percentage, length, width, weight, voltage, velocity, energy, time, etc.?  Or, just as good, are you measuring a factor (variable) that is simply present or not present? For example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lights <b>ON</b> in one trial, then lights <b>OFF</b> in another trial,</li><li><b>USE</b> fertilizer in one trial, then <b>DON'T USE</b> fertilizer in another trial.</li></ul>	Yes / No
Can you design a "fair test" to answer your question? In other words, can you change only one factor (variable) at a time, and control other factors that might influence your experiment, so that they do not interfere?	Yes / No
Is your experiment safe to perform?	Yes / No
Do you have all the materials and equipment you need for your science fair project, or will you be able to obtain them quickly and at a very low cost?	Yes / No
Do you have enough time to do your experiment more than once before the science fair?	Yes / No
Does your science fair project meet all the rules and requirements for your science fair?	Yes / No
Have you checked to see if your science fair project will require SRC (Scientific Review Committee) approval?	Yes / No
Have you avoided the bad science fair project topic areas listed in the table above?	Yes / No



## Variables in Your Science Fair Project

Scientists use an experiment to search for **cause and effect** relationships in nature. In other words, they design an experiment so that changes to one item cause something else to vary in a predictable way.

These changing quantities are called **variables**. A variable is any factor, trait, or condition that can exist in differing amounts or types. An experiment usually has three kinds of variables: independent, dependent, and controlled.

The **independent variable** is the one that is changed by the scientist. To insure a [fair test](#), a good experiment has only one independent variable. As the scientist changes the independent variable, he or she **observes** what happens.

The scientist focuses his or her observations on the **dependent variable** to see how it responds to the change made to the independent variable. The new value of the dependent variable is caused by and depends on the value of the independent variable.

For example, if you open a faucet (the independent variable), the quantity of water flowing (dependent variable) changes in response--you observe that the water flow increases. The number of dependent variables in an experiment varies, but there is often more than one.

Experiments also have **controlled variables**. Controlled variables are quantities that a scientist wants to remain constant, and he must observe them as carefully as the dependent variables. For example, if we want to measure how much water flow increases when we open a faucet, it is important to make sure that the water pressure (the controlled variable) is held constant. That's because both the water pressure and the opening of a faucet have an impact on how much water flows. If we change both of them at the same time, we can't be sure how much of the change in water flow is because of the faucet opening and how much because of the water pressure. In other words, it would not be a fair test. Most experiments have more than one controlled variable. Some people refer to controlled variables as "constant variables."

In a good experiment, the scientist must be able to **measure** the values for each variable. Weight or mass is an example of a variable that is very easy to measure. However, imagine trying to do an experiment where one of the variables is love. There is no such thing as a "love-meter." You might have a **belief** that someone is in love, but you cannot really be sure, and you would probably have friends that don't agree with you. So, love is not measurable in a scientific sense; therefore, it would be a poor variable to use in an experiment.

## Examples of Variables

Question	Independent Variable (What I change)	Dependent Variables (What I observe)	Controlled Variables (What I keep the same)
How much water flows through a faucet at different openings?	Water faucet opening (closed, half open, fully open)	Amount of water flowing measured in liters per minute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Faucet</li> <li>• Water pressure, or how much the water is "pushing"</li> </ul> <p>"Different water pressure might also cause different amounts of water to flow and different faucets may behave differently, so to insure a fair test I want to keep the water pressure and the faucet the same for each faucet opening that I test."</p>
Does heating a cup of water allow it to dissolve more sugar?	Temperature of the water measured in degrees Centigrade	Amount of sugar that dissolves completely measured in grams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stirring</li> <li>• Type of sugar</li> </ul> <p>"More stirring might also increase the amount of sugar that dissolves and different sugars might dissolve in different amounts, so to insure a fair test I want to keep these variables the same for each cup of water."</p>
Does fertilizer make a plant grow bigger?	Amount of fertilizer measured in grams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth of the plant measured by its height</li> <li>• Growth of the plant measured by the number of leaves</li> <li>• See Measuring Plant Growth for more ways to measure plant growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same size pot for each plant</li> <li>• Same type of plant in each pot</li> <li>• Same type and amount of soil in each pot</li> <li>• Same amount of water and light</li> <li>• Make measurements of growth for each plant at the same time</li> </ul> <p>"The many variables above can each change how fast a plant grows, so to insure a fair test of the fertilizer, each of them must be kept the same for every pot."</p>
Does an electric motor turn faster if you increase the voltage?	Voltage of the electricity measured in volts	Speed of rotation measured in revolutions per minute (RPMs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same motor for every test</li> <li>• The motor should be doing the same work for each test (turning the same wheel, propeller or whatever)</li> </ul> <p>"The work that a motor performs has a big impact on its speed, so to insure a fair test I must keep that variable the same."</p>

# Hypothesis

After having thoroughly researched your question, you should have some educated guess about how things work. This educated guess about the answer to your question is called the hypothesis.

The hypothesis must be worded so that it can be tested in your experiment. Do this by expressing the hypothesis using your independent variable (the variable you change during your experiment) and your dependent variable (the variable you observe-changes in the dependent variable depend on changes in the independent variable). In fact, many hypotheses are stated exactly like this: "If a particular independent variable is changed, then there is also a change in a certain dependent variable."

## Example Hypotheses

- "If I open the faucet [faucet opening size is the independent variable], then it will increase the flow of water [flow of water is the dependent variable]."
- "Raising the temperature of a cup of water [temperature is the independent variable] will increase the amount of sugar that dissolves [the amount of sugar is the dependent variable]."
- "If a plant receives fertilizer [having fertilizer is the independent variable], then it will grow to be bigger than a plant that does not receive fertilizer [plant size is the dependent variable]."
- "If I put fenders on a bicycle [having fenders is the independent variable], then they will keep the rider dry when riding through puddles [the dependent variable is how much water splashes on the rider]."

Note: When you write your own hypothesis you can leave out the part in the above examples that is in brackets [ ].

Notice that in each of the examples it will be easy to measure the independent variables. This is another important characteristic of a good hypothesis. If we can readily measure the variables in the hypothesis, then we say that the hypothesis is **testable**.

Not every question can be answered by the scientific method. The hypothesis is the key. If you can state your question as a testable hypothesis, then you can use the scientific method to obtain an answer.

## ***Advanced Topic -- Cause & Effect or Correlation?***

In some experiments it is not possible to demonstrate that a change in the independent variable **causes** a change in the dependent variable. Instead one may only be able to show that the independent variable is related to the dependent variable. This relationship is called a **correlation**. One of the most common reasons to see a correlation is that "*intervening* variables are also involved which may give rise to the *appearance* of a possibly direct cause-and-effect relationship, but which upon further investigation turn out to be more directly caused by some other factor" (Wikipedia, 2006).

## ***Advanced Topic -- Is it OK to Disprove Your Hypothesis?***

Is all science accomplished using this same method that is taught in schools and emphasized at science fairs? Should you worry if you end up disproving your hypothesis? Actually, the answers are no it's not, and no don't worry if you disprove your hypothesis. Learn more in this [essay](#) written by a veteran Science Buddies Adviser, Dr. Bruce Weaver.

## **Hypothesis Checklist**

<b>What Makes a Good Hypothesis?</b>	<b>For a Good Hypothesis, You Should Answer "Yes" to Every Question</b>
Is the hypothesis based on information contained in the Research Paper?	Yes / No
Does the hypothesis include the independent and dependent variables?	Yes / No
Have you worded the hypothesis so that it can be tested in the experiment?	Yes / No
If you are doing an engineering or programming project, have you established your design criteria?	Yes / No

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### **References**

Hypothesis. (2006, December 8). In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved August 29, 2006, from <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hypothesis&oldid=93038705>

## Experimental Procedure

Now that you have come up with a hypothesis, you need to develop an experimental procedure for testing whether it is true or false.

The first step of designing your experimental procedure involves planning how you will change your independent variable and how you will measure the impact that this change has on the dependent variable. To guarantee a fair test when you are conducting your experiment, you need to make sure that the only thing you change is the independent variable. And, all the controlled variables must remain constant. Only then can you be sure that the change you make to the independent variable actually caused the changes you observe in the dependent variables.

Scientists run experiments more than once to verify that results are consistent. In other words, you must verify that you obtain essentially the same results every time you repeat the experiment with the same value for your independent variable. This insures that the answer to your question is not just an accident. Each time that you perform your experiment is called a **run** or a **trial**. So, your experimental procedure should also specify how many trials you intend to run. Most teachers want you to **repeat your experiment a minimum of three times**. Repeating your experiment more than three times is even better, and doing so may even be required to measure very small changes in some experiments.

In some experiments, you can run the trials all at once. For example, if you are growing plants, you can put three identical plants (or seeds) in three separate pots and that would count as three trials.

In experiments that involve testing or surveying different groups of people, you will not need to repeat the experiment multiple times. However, in order to insure that your results are reliable, you need to test or survey enough people to make sure that your results are reliable. How many participants are enough, what is the ideal sample size? See the Science Buddies resource, [How Many Survey Participants Do I Need?](#), to find out.

Every good experiment also **compares** different groups of trials with each other. Such a comparison helps insure that the changes you see when you change the independent variable are in fact caused by the independent variable. There are two types of trial groups: experimental groups and control groups.

The **experimental group** consists of the trials where you change the independent variable. For example, if your question asks whether fertilizer makes a plant grow bigger, then the experimental group consists of all trials in which the plants receive fertilizer.

In many experiments it is important to perform a trial with the independent variable at a special setting for comparison with the other trials. This trial is referred to as a **control group**. The control group consists of all those trials where you leave the independent variable in its natural state. In our example, it would be important to run some trials in which the plants get no fertilizer at all. These trials with no fertilizer provide a basis for comparison, and would insure that any changes you see when you add fertilizer are in fact caused by the fertilizer and not something else.

However, not every experiment is like our fertilizer example. In another kind of experiment, many groups of trials are performed at different values of the independent variable. For example, if your question asks whether an electric motor turns faster if you increase the voltage, you might do an experimental group of three trials at 1.5 volts, another group of three trials at 2.0 volts, three trials at 2.5 volts, and so on. In such an experiment you are comparing the experimental groups to each other, rather than comparing them to a single control group. You must evaluate whether your experiment is more like the fertilizer example, which requires a special control group, or more like the motor example that does not.

# www.sciencebuddies.org

Whether or not your experiment has a control group, remember that every experiment has a number of controlled variables. Controlled variables are those variables that we don't want to change while we conduct our experiment, and they must be the same in every trial and every group of trials. In our fertilizer example, we would want to make sure that every trial received the same amount of water, light, and warmth. Even though an experiment measuring the effect of voltage on the motor's speed of rotation may not have a control group, it still has controlled variables: the same motor is used for every trial and the load on the motor (the work it does) is kept the same.

A little advance preparation can ensure that your experiment will run smoothly and that you will not encounter any unexpected surprises at the last minute. You will little advance preparation can ensure that your experiment will run smoothly and that you will not encounter any unexpected surprises at the last minute. You will need to prepare a detailed experimental procedure for your experiment so you can ensure consistency from beginning to end. Think about it as writing a recipe for your experiment. This also makes it much easier for someone else to test your experiment if they are interested in seeing how you got your results.

## Experimental Procedure Checklist

What Makes a Good Experimental Procedure?	For a Good Experimental Procedure, You Should Answer "Yes" to Every Question
Have you included a description and size for all experimental and control groups?	Yes / No
Have you included a step-by-step list of all procedures?	Yes / No
Have you described how to the change independent variable and how to measure that change?	Yes / No
Have you explained how to measure the resulting change in the dependent variable or variables?	Yes / No
Have you explained how the controlled variables will be maintained at a constant value?	Yes / No
Have you specified how many times you intend to repeat the experiment (should be at least three times), and is that number of repetitions sufficient to give you reliable data?	Yes / No
The ultimate test: Can another individual duplicate the experiment based on the experimental procedure you have written?	Yes / No
If you are doing an engineering or programming project, have you completed several preliminary designs?	Yes / No

## HSA-WACO 2011-12 SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT SCHEDULE\*

	Steps & Assignments*	DATES	Explanation
1	Students will receive <b>Science Fair Booklet</b> , and parental notification form.	12-Sep	Science Fair Booklet is to be kept in students Science Binder as a reference. Please do not take pages out. Pages that need to be turned in will be given seperately.
2	<b>Parental Notification Form</b> and Calendar will be sent with Wednesday Mail.	14-Sep	Form must be signed by parent and returned to Science Teacher on the due date.
3	<b>Deadline:</b> Turn in the <b>Parental Notification Form</b>	16-Sep	Form must be signed by parent and returned to Science Teacher.
4	Topic Selection Process.	19-26-Sep	If students have difficulties in finding a project, they can log in to Topic Selection Wizard at <a href="http://www.sciencebuddies.org">www.sciencebuddies.org</a> to help them narrow down an area of interest for their project.
5	<b>Informative Science Fair Meeting for Parents</b>	27 and 29-Sep	Parents are highly encouraged to participate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday, September 27 at 5:00pm</li> <li>• Thursday September 29 at 6:00pm</li> </ul>
6	<b>Deadline:</b> Students will turn in the <b>Science Project Proposal Form</b>	6-Oct	1 page form that explains the question statement, filled by student, signed by parent and student.
7	Students will work on: <b>Variables &amp; Hypothesis Worksheet</b> <b>Materials &amp; Experimental Procedure Worksheet</b> <b>Bibliography Worksheet</b> (Homework)	7-13 October	<b>Variables &amp; Hypothesis:</b> An explanation of which factors will be changed while conducting the experiment and a hypothesis on the resulting impact of the change. <b>Materials &amp; Experimental Procedure:</b> A detailed list of the materials that will be used to conduct the experiment and the detailed steps that will be followed while conduct the experiment. Students will start working on the assignments in class and complete them as homework.
8	<b>Deadline: Research Plan</b>	20-Oct	<b>Research Plan:</b> The Research Plan is a roadmap of the research questions that need to be answered. The Bibliography is a list of the sources that will be used to answer the research questions. Source Requirement: at least 3 offline sources including one encyclopedia. <b>IMPORTANT:</b> Students cannot start the experimentation unless they get approval from their teacher. To do so, they have to submit their Research Plan and Safety Forms. But they do not need to wait until deadlines. If your plan and forms are ready, submit them to your science teacher and upon approval, you can start your experimentation right away.
9	Students will work on: - <b>Data Tables</b> (with units, # of trials and average columns AND predicted data) - <b>Types of Graphs</b> (with appropriate type, labels, units AND predicted data)		Students will work on their data tables, and types of graphs. Students will start working on the assignments in class and complete them as homework.
10	<b>Deadline:</b> Students will turn in <b>Power Point Presentation of their Project Proposal</b> including: -Question -Hypothesis -Variables -Experimental Procedure and Number of Trials Data Table (with predicted data) -Graphs (with appropriate type, labels, units AND predicted data)	27-Oct	Students will present their Project Proposals in class, and will get feedback from their teacher and classmates. After which, each student will receive a copy of Project Improvement Form showing areas of improvement. Students are required to improve their project accordingly.
11	<b>Deadline:</b> Student will submit <b>Summary of Work Done</b> Sheet. Parent signature required.	3-Nov	1-2 page form to be filled out by student. Parents signature required.
13	<b>Deadline:</b> Research Paper	8-Nov	Details will be given later.
12	Work on Display Board before Thanksgiving Holiday.		
14	<b>Deadline:</b> Display Board	1-Dec	Details will be given later.
15	School-wide Science Fair**	10-Dec	

\* Subject to change. Changes will be sent with Wednesday mail and posted to the web.

!!! Students, if you need any help, please see your Science Teacher before deadlines.

!!!No team projects are allowed unless students get written permission from Science Fair Coordinator (Mr. Kuzey).





# HARMONY SCHOOLS SCIENCE FAIR PARENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

Dear Parents and students,

Each year we have a mandatory school-wide Science Fair at Harmony Schools. This year Science Fair will be held on ***Saturday, December 10, 2011.***

This week, your child will receive a science fair package. The package provides information regarding the requirements and guidelines that need to be followed.

All Harmony Science Academy students are required to prepare a Science Fair Project. Students will also receive credit from their English Language, Computer, and Art teachers. Due to the high number of points possible for the project, grades of students who do not complete a project will be affected severely for each grading period (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> grading periods for 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> graders).

Please check the deadlines of each step of the Science Fair Project carefully. Students are highly encouraged to submit their assignments before these deadlines. This way they will have a good chance to make improvements if something is missing or needs fine tuning. Informative Science Fair Meeting for Parents (Science Fair Orientation) is scheduled as following:

- Tuesday, September 27 at 5:00pm
- Thursday September 29 at 6:00pm

We will try to work with each student individually, but the ultimate responsibility belongs to students. This copy is to be kept in student's science binder. You will receive another copy of this with this week's Wednesday Mail. Please fill out that form and have your child return that sheet by Thursday, September 15, to his/her science teacher.

I \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have read  
(Please print parents' name) (Please print students' name )

and understand what is expected of each student concerning Science Fair Projects. I have also read the specific due dates and adhere to the deadlines.

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

## TO BE KEPT IN SCIENCE BINDER