

November 3rd, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Science fair season is in full swing once again and I am writing with some pertinent information and reminders for you about your child's science fair project.

I am very excited that both the 7th and 8th grade scientists will be eligible to participate in the middle school regional and state level fairs within the Massachusetts State Science and Engineering Fair (MSSEF)! They will be asked to abide by specific guidelines and complete forms to insure their project eligibility.

Each student has received a step-by-step deadline timeline and checklist to assist them in completing their project. This information will also be accessible on my BFCCPS teacher page, which can be accessed at: <http://bfccps.org/faculty/melissa-herliczek/>, and will be sent to you via e-mail (see attached). The packet will provide much of the information needed to complete their project. Rubrics for their background research and overall project will be provided closer to the individual deadlines. I will be giving students handouts in class that explain the process of conducting a science fair project and guide them on their way. However, the bulk of the students' work will be completed at home. All students are expected to present their final product on a tri-fold display board.

A science fair project challenges a student to solve a question using the scientific method or engineering design process. It is a great way to excite children about science, teach them to think like scientists, develop their organizational skills, and enhance their written and oral presentation skills.

I hope that you will offer your child support and encouragement and monitor his or her progress in the coming weeks. At the same time I ask that you keep in mind that the project is your child's responsibility. By limiting your involvement, your child will receive the full educational benefits of the science fair. It should be noted that a successful project does not have to cost a lot of money. Some of the best projects can be completed using materials found around the home!

I have included a link to a great video from the Massachusetts State Science and Engineering Fair (MSSEF) that the classes viewed to launch the science fair season. Please see the attached documents and feel free to e-mail me at any time with any questions or concerns.

Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns or need additional materials. The best way to contact me is via e-mail (mherliczek@bfccps.org). I will be in contact with parents if your child is in need of additional assistance to prepare their science fair project. I look forward to supporting students with their projects and welcome students after school on Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. Please let me know if you are interested in an after school session for you scientist via e-mail. Stay tuned for more information regarding science fair and the science fair date in the coming weeks. Thank you in advance for supporting your child in such an exciting process of discovery!

Sincerely,

Melissa

