

Appendix A: Parent Letter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

One of the goals of the Douglas County Schools science program is to involve students in quality independent research in an area of their choice. With assistance from several sources, each student will select a topic and conduct an experiment to study some aspect of that topic. All students will need to do most of this work at home, in addition to using libraries to research their topic. Many will actually conduct their experiments at home, although some will need to make arrangements to conduct their experiments at school or at another facility. A schedule of events and a timeline for completing various parts of the project are attached. Please review them with your student.

Each school will enter its top projects in the Douglas County District Science Fair, from which first-place winners will move on to the Regional Science Fair. Regional winners are then invited to the Georgia Science & Engineering Fair at the University of Georgia in Athens. Your child will need your support and encouragement in preparing a project for these competitive events.

Below are the answers to some frequently asked questions, which may help your student as he/she begins this project.

Q: Can my child do the same project he/she did last year?

A: No. If you would like to do an extension from a previous year, you must (1) notify your sponsor, (2) test NEW variables (not just increase the sample size), and (3) do NEW research on your NEW variables.

Q: When is my child's project due?

A: To assist your child in time management, we have provided a timeline and broken up the project into a series of assignments. Please check the dates carefully. We ask your assistance in reminding your child to keep up with assignments.

Q: To what extent should I be involved in my child's project?

A: Parent involvement may be necessary to some degree. Your child may need assistance with transportation to the library, lab, or store to purchase materials. You may be asked to serve as an "adult sponsor" for your child's project; however, parents are discouraged from supplying assistance with experimentation.

Please sign below to indicate that you have read the Science Fair Information Packet. Have your student sign below and return this letter to his/her teacher by Tuesday, **August 20, 2013**.

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Name (please print): _____

Student Signature: _____