

5/6th Grade Independent Projects May-June 2017

Dear 5/6th Grade Parents and Students,

We are nearing the end of the school year, and that means that your child should start working on his or her Independent Project to be presented in the last 3 weeks of school. Some of you already have experience with this from past years, but we wanted to give you an idea of what we'll be looking for from your student's project and share some ideas for possible projects. Please read through these ideas with your child in the next week, discussing what he or she would like to do, and return the attached portion by Monday, April 24th with a note about your student's idea for his or her project and comments on the best presentation days and times.

Independent Project Guidelines:

1) This should be a project that is completed almost entirely by your student. You can help with checking out books from the library and reading aloud content. You can also help by purchasing supplies and setting aside certain "Independent Project work periods" on the weekend or evenings when your child is expected to work on his or her project. However, please do not do the project for your child. Homework will be limited during the month of May so that your child can work exclusively on this project.

2) The project should focus on something that interests your child. It could be a traditional research project or it could be a project that involves making or building something. We are very flexible and would love to hear your ideas.

3) On the day of the presentation, your child should present what he or she has learned in a creative way. This could be a poster with pictures and information, it could be a video or slide show, or it could be a presentation of something made or built. The presentation should focus on the following information:

- Why did you choose to learn about this topic?
- What materials did you use? How did you go about getting your information?
- What did you learn about your topic? What problems or challenges did you encounter?
- What might you do differently next time?

4) Your child is responsible for a short written component to be turned in on the day of the presentation. This can be handwritten or typed. Expectations are dependent upon the project/presentation. Students should include a proposed written component with their topic of choice below.

5) As of Monday, April 24th, (when this proposal is due), you and your student will have approximately four weeks to work on this project before we begin presenting, depending on your child's presentation date. In addition, there will be limited homework from now through the end of the school year. This means that most days, you can spend afternoons working on the project as well as the weekends.

6) If you are finding that you are having a hard time motivating your student to do his or her independent project or if you do not have much time to do it at home, please do not hesitate to contact us. We could work out some in-class time to work on the project and we can help motivate. Please do not think you have to do this all on your own. We are here to help!

Thank you for your help with this important school experience!

-Mr. Towe and Mrs. Hood

Project Ideas (read through these with your child):

-Food projects are always fun. Learn how to make cheese, create your own recipe, learn how to make different types of desserts, and bring your samples in to share! Maybe you have a favorite chef or cooking show. Research how that chef made their way to be where they are, then make a favorite recipe of theirs.

- Study a topic that has always interested you. Perhaps you want to know more about the Aurora Borealis, and how the sun helps create the effect, or manatee, or how drones work (and what their anticipated role is in the very near future). Check out books from the library , go on-line, and read as much as you can. Teach us what you've learned on the day of your presentation.

- Teach your classmates how to do something. Maybe you're an aspiring wood worker, or enjoy carving, and you'd like to show us how you practice your hobby. Perhaps you love to make bird houses and you want to show us how to build one. Or maybe you have done a particular science experiment and you want to teach us about it. Maybe you know how to play lacrosse and you want to show us how to throw, catch, and strategize. We can have independent project presentations outside if we need to!

-Make something beautiful and interesting. Perhaps you love to paint, and you want to paint a piece, or collection of pieces to share. Maybe you are interested creating a craft or project you've seen on Pinterest, and you make it, and share the final product with us. Perhaps you choose to compose some original songs on the piano or guitar to play and sing for us.

Good luck choosing your project and getting started! Have a wonderful time. We can't wait to see what you come up with!

-Mr. Towe and Mrs. Hood

Please fill this out with your student and return it on Monday, April 24th.

For my independent project, I, (name) _____, have chosen to
