

September 18, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that things are going as well for you as they are in our classroom. Our class will be beginning work on a social studies project that the students will get to complete. All students must complete a social studies fair project this year, and I have attached the rules, guidelines, and expectations to the back of this form for the project.

The social studies fair project is a very important component of the class because it serves as an activity in which the students get to study a subject of interest to them more thoroughly on their own time. *The project will count as 25% of your child's grade for the 2nd nine weeks grading period.* Therefore, it is very important that your child put forth his/her best effort when completing the assignment.

I have attached the key components of the project along with the rubric with which your child's paper will be graded in order to eliminate any worries or questions. Due to the amount of reading and writing that is involved in the study of history, the major component of the project will be a 3-page research paper on the topic of the student's choice (so long as it is pre-approved by me). I have also attached a schedule of when components of the assignment are due.

If you would please sign the bottom portion of this sheet and return it to me through your child by **Friday, September 25, 2009** in order for your child to earn his/her first grade for the project. *The signed form will count as a test grade for your child.* A paper with the student's topic is due on the same day. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call me at 980-1300 or e-mail me at [ken.ferguson@blountk12.org](mailto:ken.ferguson@blountk12.org). Thank you for your support in your child's education.

Thank you,

Ken Ferguson  
8th Grade U.S. History Teacher  
Heritage Middle School

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I have read and understand all of the information concerning the social studies fair project for Mr. Ferguson's U.S. History class.

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Child's Name

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Date

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Parent's Signature

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Date

# SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR GUIDELINES

**All** 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in United States history classes are required to complete and exhibit a Social Studies Fair project as part of their second nine weeks curriculum. The projects will count 25% of the second nine weeks grade.

## HMS Social Studies Fair

8<sup>th</sup> grade—November 9, 2009 (Monday)

## Categories

8<sup>th</sup> Grade—Students **must** do their project on something relating to United States history between 1000 A.D. and 1877.

## Standards of Judging

- Creativity—30 points. Creativity is judged on the basis of the originality and purposefulness of the topic, as well as the use of the materials.
- Researching skills—30 points. This area is to be judged on the degree and quality of the research on the topic.
- Thoroughness—20 points. Skill and preparation at all stages of the project will be evaluated. Student responses to judges' questions are included in this area.
- Dramatic value—20 points. The overall attractiveness of the project.

## Requirements and Deadlines

1. **September 25, 2009—Parent Letter Signed** (Test Grade)
2. **September 25, 2009—Topic Selection.** Write the topic (title) of your project and why you want to do this particular project. Daily grade.
3. **October 30, 2009—Rough Draft of research paper, including bibliography.** Test Grade.
4. November 9, 2009—Completed Projects (boards, models, notebooks

with bibliography, etc) are due.

## Parts of the Project

Report Notebook (unmarked 1", 3-ring binder) must include:

1. **Title page.** Title of the project, student's name, school, date
2. **Table of contents.** List the parts of the notebook and page numbers.
3. **Research Paper.** The research paper should include background research about your topic (see below).
4. **Bibliography.** You must use at least four (4) references; two (2) of them must be books. The bibliography must be in the correct format (see attached sheet).

The display must include:

1. Project Board:
  - a. Title
  - b. Information regarding the topic (charts, graphs, primary sources such as diaries, photographs, or other visual aids)
2. Display—may include a model, examples, and/or materials used

\*The size of the exhibit must not exceed two (2) feet from front to back and three (3) feet in length, and three (3) feet in height.

## Research Paper

The research paper must include the following:

1. **Must be at least three (3) full pages long**
2. 12-inch font
3. 1" margins
4. Times New Roman lettering
5. Double-spaced
6. Indentions between new paragraphs
7. Name and page numbers in the upper right hand corner of the paper (directions at bottom of page).
8. Be put into a 1" three ring binder with nothing written on it.

\*\*\*\*\*To put your name and page numbers in the top right hand corner of the page in Microsoft word click **view**, then click **header and footer**. Next, when the header pops up, hit **ctrl + R**. Next, type **your LAST NAME then a space**, then **hit the page sign with the # in the middle of it** in the menu box. This will place the correct number on every page so that you do not have to type in a separate number each time. Then, hit **close**.\*\*\*\*\*