

Jefferson County Middle School

A Community of Students, Parents, and Staff

1180 SE Kemper Way
Madras, OR 97741

Simon White, Principal
Brent Walsh, Assistant Principal
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January 10th, 2018

Dear Parents or Guardians,

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students at JCMS will be participating in the Science Fair on March 22nd, 2018. This means students will be starting to work on their Science Fair Projects the first week back from Winter Break January 3rd.

A science project is a controlled experiment proving the answer to a question your child comes up with, on his or her own. This is not a model (the classic model of a volcano that erupts is a good example of a model) or a demonstration (showing how to make an electromagnet from a nail wire and battery is an example of this). Students have already learned in their science classes what controlled experiments are and how to use the scientific method. This will also be reviewed as we work on Science Fair Projects.

Students in 7th and 8th grade will be choosing a project from three different categories and 6th grade students will begin their middle school science fair experience by conducting an experiment. The first category for 7th and 8th graders is the catapult competition. If your child has signed up for this they have to have their catapult ready and at JCMS by March 16th, the day before the competition, so that it can be registered to enter. Reminder, supplies have to be bought on their own and this might be pricey. Please be aware of this when choosing to enter into the competition. Your child should have a set of rules and instructions for their catapults. If these rules and instructions are not followed, the student will be informed when they register and they **must** make adjustments then, otherwise they will be disqualified from the competition. If your student chooses a catapult, they must be physically present to enter and compete in the catapult competition on March 22nd. The catapult competition will be after school, so please mark your calendars, and make sure your student has transportation.

The second option (7th and 8th grade only) is the pinhole camera project. Again participants have been told the rules and instructions for this project. It is easy and inexpensive to build a pinhole camera, but students will be spending a lot of time taking pictures and then developing them in the darkroom after school and will need to have transportation available to them.

The last project option is an experiment project (required for 6th graders). Students will have to plan a controlled experiment and have to be able to come up with results to report to their audience. Participants will have a packet of helpful hints and instructions for their experiments to follow.

The science fair project will amount to almost half of all the total points for the third quarter (up to 500pts). This is justified because it is a chance for your child to really do some science on their own. These points include homework every week that require your inspection and signature. This homework is a check-in on their progress and whether they are on track to be successful at the Science Fair.

Students must turn in:

1. Homework to work on and update parents on project
2. An abstract or report on their science project
3. A display/poster board of their science project to be in the science fair
4. Be ready to present their science project to their science class

The science department would like to express their hopes that this science fair experience will be a good one. Please feel free to support and even participate with your child at any level that you feel comfortable. Also, feel free to contact the science department if you have any questions or call JCMS at (541) 475-7253.

The Science Department would love some parent volunteers to help with science fair. If you would like to volunteer with registration for the science fair or the catapult competition the night of the Science Fair, please fill out the volunteer form on the back of this letter and give it to the front office.

Sincerely,
JCMS Science Department

(541) 475-7253

Fax # (541) 475-4825

Parents and guardians, if you are interested in volunteering for the JCMS Science Fair you will need to fill out a district volunteer packet. Please see the JCMS Office or District office to get one.



SCIENCE FAIR PARENT VOLUNTEER

(Please return form to JCMS Front Office and pick up a volunteer packet)

I would like to volunteer for the Science Fair this year on March 22nd, 2018.

I am available to volunteer (please check all that apply):

_____ During the morning of March 22nd, 2018 (8:30 am – 12:00 pm)

_____ During the afternoon of March 22nd, 2018 (12:00 pm – 4:00 pm)

_____ During the set-up of Catapult Competition on March 22nd, 2018 (4:00 pm – 5:30 pm)

_____ During the Catapult Competition on March 22nd, 2018 (5:30 pm – 7:00 pm)

_____ Other available times: _____

Please provide some contact information and you will be contacted for further information.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____