**Experimental Design Parent Letter** Monday September 14, 2015
Dear Students and Parents:

 The 6th grade Advanced Science students will be using their knowledge of the Scientific Method to design, plan, and conduct an experiment. This project will take place over a 3 week time span. Your student will get two class periods to formulate their question and get started. They will then need to present the question to their science teacher for approval of the experiment. After teacher approval, ***your student will be bringing their question and idea of the experiment home to you for approval.***

Please fill out the bottom of this paper and send the bottom portion back to school with your student. We are asking for parent approval because this experiment will mainly be done at home and the student will need to have access to all materials they need to successfully conduct the experiment. If approval for your student’s chosen question is not given, due to the materials or time constraint, please brainstorm with your student another testable question they can experiment and have the student discuss it with me the following day. Again, **majority of the project will be done at home.**

They will need a poster board to display all of their required information (Students were given a list of the requirements, guidelines and checklist.). Students will be bringing in their finished display board to school on the *Day of Sharing* **(October 5th and 6th).**  On the *Day of Sharing* students will be giving an oral presentation of their experiment to the class.

 This is a **major** project and will represent a **significant portion** of your child’s grade for the first grading period. The primary objective of this project is to have students approach a problem scientifically. This includes:

1. Asking questions and forming hypotheses
2. Creating and conducting experiments to test those hypotheses
3. Organizing data and drawing conclusions
4. Writing about scientific research
5. Communicating experimental results

The project must be **experimental** in nature as opposed to research oriented. In other words, students must do an experiment to determine the answer to their question instead of just looking it up in a book. We encourage students to pick topics that they are genuinely interested in, since they will be working on these projects for the next few weeks. Topics must also be “**original**” - something students do not already know. Project guidelines state that all work must be done by the students; however, assistance may be provided by teachers, parents, etc.

I am looking forward to seeing what every student comes up with and making this a valuable learning experience for your student. I appreciate your support on this important project. As acknowledgement of your student’s project (which will mainly be completed at home), please sign, date, and return the bottom portion of this letter by **September 16th**.
Sincerely,

Miss Bretz

**Please return this bottom portion of the paper by *Wednesday September 16th, 2015***

I have reviewed and discussed the project guidelines and requirements, as well as my student’s testable question, with my student, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, (Printed Name of Child) and we understand the requirements for a successful Experimental Design Project.

Student’s experiment Question: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 Parent Signature Student Signature