



HOLICONG MIDDLE SCHOOL
8TH GRADE ADVANCED
SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES

A grayscale background image of three students in a science laboratory. One student in the foreground is using a microscope, while two others are visible in the background. The image has a dark, semi-transparent overlay.

8TH GRADE SCIENCE

SHOULD I TAKE ADVANCED SCIENCE?

8TH GRADE SCIENCE CURRICULUM

Academic Science

- ☐ Integrated 4 unit course
 - ☐ Forces, Astronomy, Chemistry, and Human Body Systems
- ☐ Problem-solving and critical thinking skills

Advanced Research Science

- ☐ Integrated 4 unit course
 - ☐ Forces, Astronomy, Chemistry, and Human Body Systems
- ☐ Problem –solving and critical thinking skills
- ☐ Scientific Research
- ☐ Bucks County Science Fair

WHAT IS THE SCIENCE FAIR?

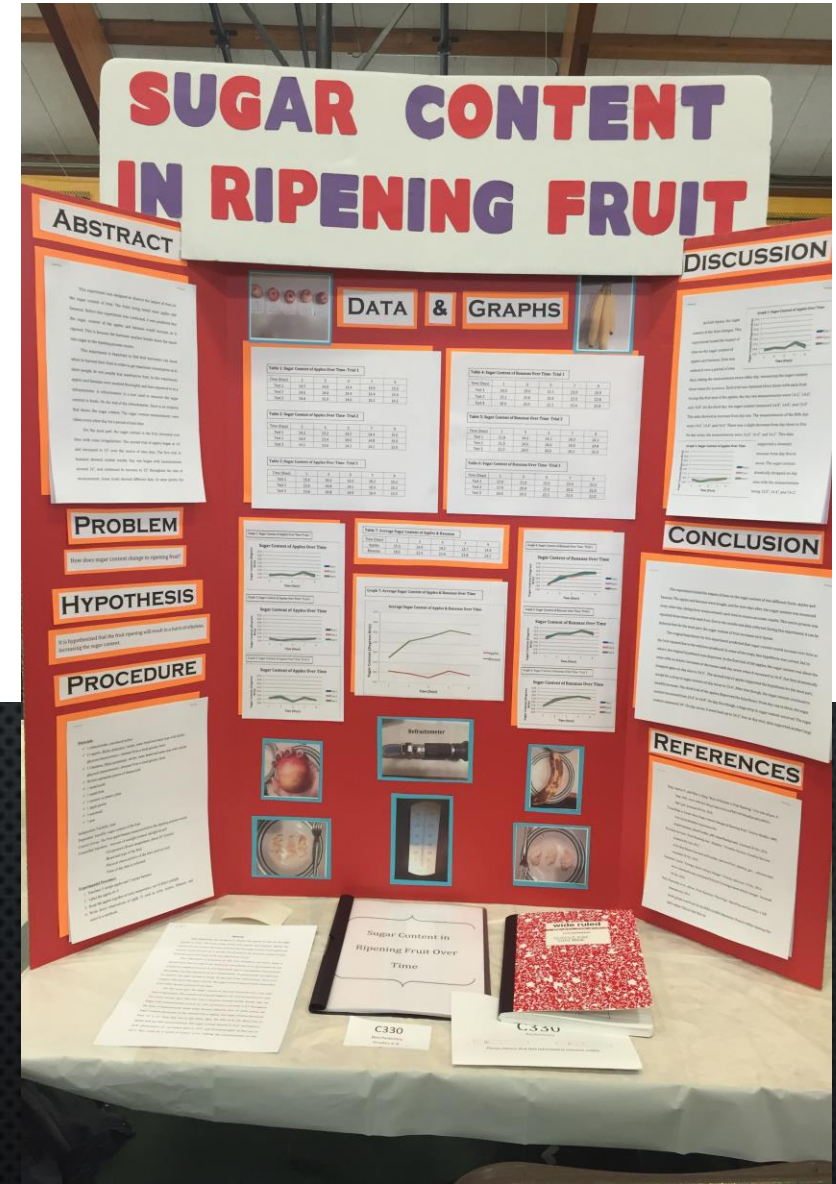
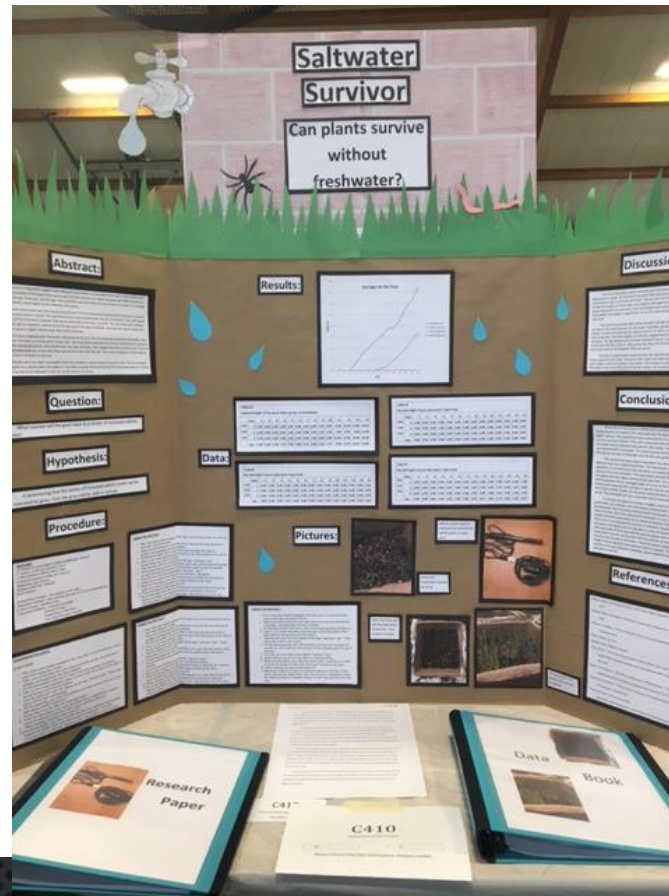
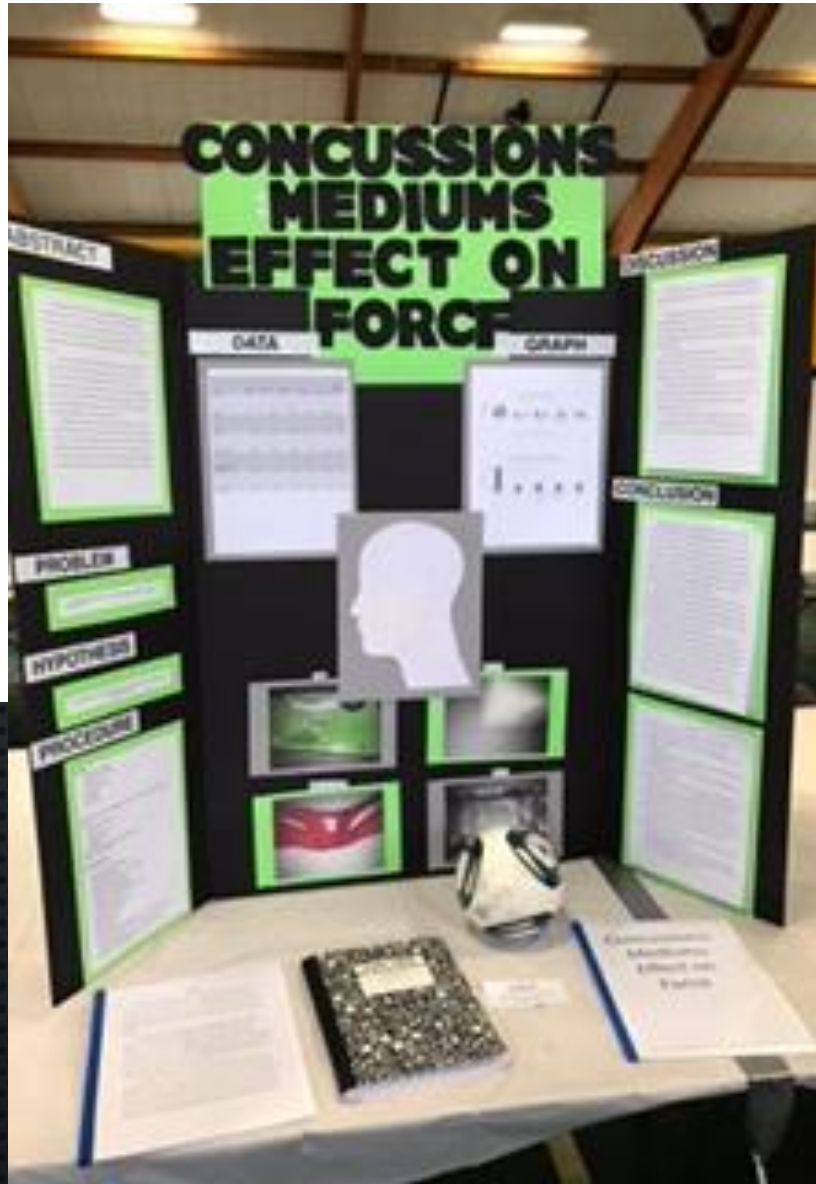
INDEPENDENT EXPERIMENTATION

Steps involved:

- Choose a topic of interest
- Research background information
- Formulate a hypothesis
- Design an experimental procedure
- Collect data
- Graph data
- Interpret data and draw conclusions
- Display and present project

Due Date	Activities	Assignments due
9/28	Selecting a Question	Tipsheet #1
Meet with teacher prior to 10/2	Revising the Question	Tipsheet #2
10/12	Research and Noodletools bibliography	Tipsheet #3
10/26	Research paper	Tipsheet #4
11/1	Bucks County Science Fair Registration and Payment due (only if competing)	Online registration and payment
11/8	Hypothesis and Variables	Tipsheet #5 and Tipsheet #6
11/16	Experiment (Materials and Procedure)	Tipsheet #7
11/15	Bucks County Science Fair Paperwork (optional)	Science Fair forms
12/20	Initial Trials and Data Tables	Tipsheet #8
1/24	Final Data – Tables and Graphs	Tipsheet #8
2/2	Discussion of Results	Tipsheet #9
2/9	Conclusion	Tipsheet #10
2/21	Typed Project Summary/ Abstract	Tipsheet #11
3/9	Final project: Trifold or Video	Use rubric
3/11 – 3/14	Bucks County Science Fair at Delaware Valley University	
April	Delaware Valley Science Fair	

EXAMPLE OF DUE DATES AND TIME REQUIREMENT



EXAMPLES

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVANCED SCIENCE

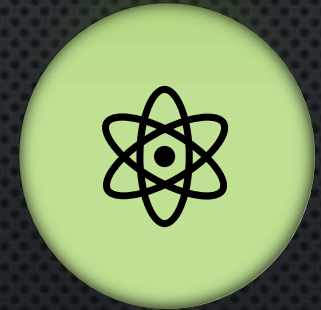


Intellectual curiosity in Science



Ability to meet deadlines

Overall grade average in science
of A or A-



Teacher recommendation



8TH GRADE

AMERICAN HISTORY

**Should I take Advanced
Social Studies?**

WHAT IS ADVANCED AMERICAN HISTORY AND HOW DOES IT DIFFER FROM ACADEMIC AMERICAN HISTORY?

- Follows the same curriculum...1600 - 1900

- An emphasis on historical research

- Research based activities and projects

- Analysis and purpose of history

- Methods to understand past experiences

- Defining sources of information

- Organizing research

- Communicate effectively

- Participation in National History Day Regional Competition

WHAT IS NATIONAL HISTORY DAY?

“We need history, not to tell us what happened or to explain the past, but to make the past alive so that it can explain us and make a future possible.”

*Allen Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind**

- A regional, state, and national competitive project
- Integrate the arts, sciences, and other disciplines
- Groups of 1-5 students can work together
- Choose a topic related to the overall theme
- Primary and secondary research on that topic
- Present findings in a performance, exhibit, documentary, website, or research essay at NHD Showcase

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVANCED AMERICAN HISTORY?

Each student pursuing placement in the Advanced program must exhibit all of the following qualities:

- Ability to work independently and/or in a group
- Intellectual curiosity in English and Social Studies
- Evidence of meeting deadlines, creativity, and originality

Each student must have the following grade or receive a teacher recommendation:

A or A- average in 7th grade Academic Social Studies

or

7th Grade Social Studies Teacher Recommendation

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAN STUDENTS TAKE BOTH ADVANCED SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES?

- STUDENTS THAT HAVE MET THE PREREQUISITE GRADE & RECOMMENDATION FOR EACH COURSE CAN TAKE BOTH. WE ASK THAT STUDENTS & PARENTS CONSIDER ALL INFORMATION BELOW BEFORE MAKING THAT DECISION. BOTH COURSES HAVE A REQUIRED RESEARCH PROJECT, NHD AND SCIENCE FAIR, THAT REQUIRES A MAJOR COMMITMENT.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL FOR EACH PROJECT REQUIREMENT?

- THE COMMITMENT OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL CAN BE DEMANDING. IT REQUIRES RESEARCHING, COLLECTING DATA, MEETING WITH PARTNERS, AND CONSTRUCTING FINISHED PRODUCTS – A MAJORITY OF THIS WORK TAKES PLACE OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM. IT REQUIRES AN OUTSTANDING WORK ETHIC AND TIME MANAGEMENT, ESPECIALLY IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH AS BOTH PROJECTS COME TO A CLOSE.

SHOULD STUDENTS WORK WITH A PARTNER FOR NHD?

- WORKING WITH A PARTNER THAT IS AS COMMITTED AS YOUR CHILD IS VERY IMPORTANT. AS STATED EARLIER, GETTING TOGETHER OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL IS IMPERATIVE AND PARTNERS SHOULD SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS FOR RESPONSIBILITIES & TIME COMMITMENTS. WE HAVE SEEN SOME PARTNERSHIPS NOT WORK IN THE PAST AND IT HAS CAUSED CONFLICT & STRESS BETWEEN THE PARTNERS.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MY CHILD IS INVOLVED IN THE MUSICAL. HOW WILL THIS IMPACT MY CHILD'S PROJECTS?

- THE MUSICAL IS ALWAYS WITHIN A WEEK OR TWO OF THE NHD AND SCIENCE FAIR COMPETITIONS. STUDENTS INVOLVED IN THE MUSICAL AND EITHER ADVANCED COURSE WILL HAVE A BUSY SCHEDULE.

MY CHILD IS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN EXTRACURRICULARS AT HOLICONG & ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF HOLICONG. HOW WILL THIS IMPACT HIS/HER PROGRESS?

- THERE ARE MANY DEADLINES THAT HAVE TO BE MET THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS FOR BOTH CLASSES. MEETING THESE DEADLINES IS IMPERATIVE IN ORDER TO KEEP PACE AND COMPLETE THE RESEARCH PROCESS EFFECTIVELY. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THIS IS THE FIRST ADVANCED SS OR SCIENCE COURSE STUDENTS ARE TAKING.

WHEN ARE THE SCIENCE AND SS PROJECTS DUE?

- BOTH NHD AND SCIENCE FAIR PROJECTS ARE DUE ROUGHLY AROUND THE SAME TIME. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ESSAYS AND WEBSITES FOR NHD, ALL PROJECTS ARE DUE IN LATE MARCH AND APRIL.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DO TEACHERS AND COUNSELORS RECOMMEND TAKING BOTH ADVANCED CLASSES?

- IT DEPENDS ON THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT. WE ONLY INCLUDE THIS INFORMATION TO MAKE STUDENTS & PARENTS AWARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMITMENT WHEN TAKING BOTH. STUDENTS THAT ARE RECOMMENDED FOR EACH COURSE ARE DONE SO IN ISOLATION OF ONE ANOTHER.

HOW SHOULD STUDENTS DETERMINE WHETHER TO TAKE BOTH COURSES?

- STUDENTS RECOMMENDED FOR BOTH COURSES HAVE MET ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS & RECEIVED TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOTH. STUDENTS SHOULD TALK TO PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND OTHER STUDENTS (WHO HAVE TAKEN BOTH PREVIOUSLY) AND MAKE A DECISION THAT IS BEST FOR THEM.

WHO CAN WE CONTACT WITH ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO TAKING BOTH COURSES?

- PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CURRENT SOCIAL STUDIES & SCIENCE TEACHER OR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR WITH ANY QUESTIONS.