



Topeka Collegiate School  
Summer Reading Book List

**Middle School**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade (required) Reading** for in-coming 6<sup>th</sup> graders includes 3 novels:

Under The Blood-Red Sun by Graham Salisbury

**or**

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

**and**

two more novels of your choice. These may be selected from the Newbery Award list, the Michael L. Printz Award list, or other selection of your choosing.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade (required) Reading** for in-coming 7<sup>th</sup> graders includes 3 novels:

Nothing But the Truth by Avi

**and**

two more novels of your choice. These may be selected from the Newbery Award list, the Michael L. Printz Award list, or other selection of your choosing.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade (required) Reading** for in-coming 8<sup>th</sup> graders includes 3 novels:

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

**or**

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

**or**

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl

**and**

two more novels of your choice. These may be selected from the Newbery Award list, the Michael L. Printz Award list, or other selection of your choosing.

## Summer Reading Assignment

Pick a character from any one of your summer reading selections. Ideally, you would pick a character that is featured prominently in your book. As you read, take notes about what this character is like. Do not limit your notes to physical descriptions; you should, by the end of your reading, really know about who your character is, what their personality is like, what makes them tick, etc. Getting to know your character is extremely important for the next part of this assignment.

Pick your favorite story. This can be a book, a movie, a play, or any kind of work that features a setting, characters, and a plot. In essay form, tell me about your choice, and summarize the important details of your choice (characters, setting, plot, etc.), but focus mainly on the plot. After your summary, you will then replace the main character of your favorite story with the chosen character from your summer reading novel.

Your job, in the next part of your essay, is to tell me how your character would behave in the novel you've placed them in. How would they interact with the other characters? How would their existence in the world of the story change that story? Would the story end the same way? These are just some of the questions your essay should address. This is why you need to really get to know your character, so you can make some solid predictions about how they would change the story you place them in. I will be checking your essay against your character notes in order to confirm that your predictions are based on what the character is actually like.

Consider the following:

Let's say I drop Harry Potter into the world of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. In *Huckleberry Finn*, the world is very different. For one, it takes place in America in the 1800's, a setting vastly different than Harry's modern day England. Furthermore, magic, an extremely important element in the HP universe, does not exist in Huckleberry's world. These two differences alone would cause Harry to act and behave quite differently in Huck's story, and would likely lead to a very different plot altogether. Those differences in the character's behavior and how the story would play out would be the main concern of my essay.

**The essay and the notes you take on your character will be due, typed and printed, on the first day of class.** There is no length requirement, but you need to write as much as it takes to fulfill the requirements of the assignment.

Have a great summer!



## NEWBERY AWARD BOOKS

**2019 Medal Winner:** *Merci Suárez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina

**Honor Books:** *The Night Diary*, by Veera Hiranandani

*The Book of Boy*, by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

**2018 Winner:** *Hello, Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly

**2017 Winner:** *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill

**2016 Winner:** *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña

**2015 Winner:** *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

**2014 Winner:** *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures* by Kate DiCamillo

**2013 Winner:** *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate

**2012 Winner:** *Dead End in Norvelt* by Jack Gantos

**2011 Winner:** *Moon Over Manifest* by Claire Vanderpool

**2010: Winner:** *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead

**2009: Winner:** *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman

**2008: Winner:** *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village* by Laura Schlitz

**2007: Winner:** *The Higher Power of Lucky* by Susan Patron

**2006: Winner:** *Criss Cross* by Lynne Rae Perkins

**2005: Winner:** *Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadhata

**2004: Winner:** *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story ... of Thread* by Kate DiCamillo

**2003: Winner:** *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* by Avi

**2002: Winner:** *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park

## MICHAEL L. PRINTZ AWARD BOOKS

**2019 Medal Winner** – *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo

2019 Honor Books – *Damsel* by Elana K. Arnold

*A Heart in a Body in the World* by Deb Caletti

*I, Claudia* by Mary McCoy

2018 winner – *We Are Okay* by Nina LaCour

2017 winner - *March: Book Three* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin,  
and Nate Powell

2016 winner – *Bone Gap* by Laura Ruby

2015 winner – *I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson

2014 winner – *Midwinterblood* by Marcus Sedgwick

2013 winner – *In Darkness* by Nick Lake

2012 winner – *Where Things Come Back* by John Corey Whaley

2011 winner – *Ship Breaker* by Paolo Bacigalupi

2010 winner – *Going Bovine* by Libba Bray

2009 winner – *Jellicoe Road* by Melina Marchetta

2008 winner – *The White Darkness* by Geraldine McCaughrean

2007 winner – *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang

2006 winner – *Looking for Alaska* by John Green

2005 winner – *How I live Now* by Meg Rosoff

2004 winner – *The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson

2003 winner – *Postcards from No Man's Land* by Aidan Chambers

2002 winner – *A Step from Heaven* by An Na

2001 winner – *Kit's Wilderness* by David Almond

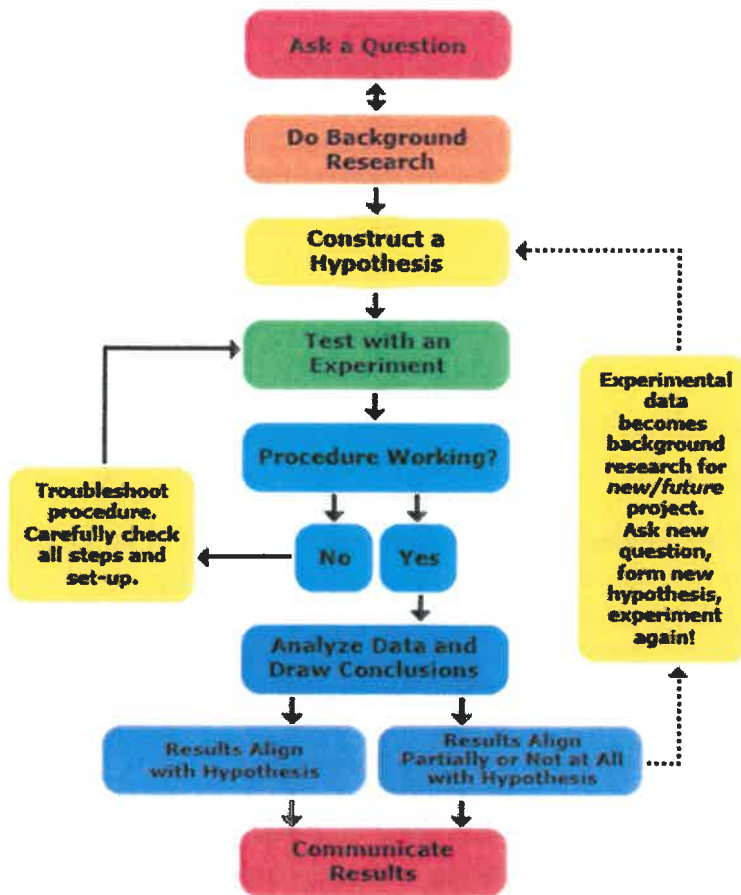
### Abstract:

The purpose of this enrichment opportunity is to give returning students the opportunity to get a head start for next school year's Science Day Exhibition. Science Day is a Fall, semester long project where students are tasked with working in a group or by themselves on a project which utilizes the scientific method. Sometimes, the most challenging part is coming up with a good project idea. This Summer, I am tasking students to brainstorm ideas by using the following guidelines below. Please note, that any work done over Summer is entirely optional, but extremely advantageous, as it is a mandatory project for all Middle School students in Fall.

### Instructions:

1. The flow chart on the next page reflects the process of the scientific method. The first step, is always **asking a good, scientific question**. Use the following guidelines below to develop one.
  - a. **Pick a topic you are interested in!** Science is an incredibly broad field of study and you can turn almost any hobby or passion into a science experiment. This will increase the enjoyment you will get from designing your project.
  - b. **Consider your variables.** A question is not ready to be tested unless you can clearly define your variables. There are three variables to consider listed and defined on the next page.
  - c. Here are some examples of questions from last year's Science Day.
    - i. Does the color of light a plant receives affect that rate at which that plant grows? If so, which color of light allows a plant to grow fastest?
    - ii. Do children fail to determine the difference between medicine and similar looking candies and if so, what age groups fail?
2. **Begin research.** The second step of the scientific method is to do background research. Use evidence from other, similar experiments to support and design your own.
  - a. **Make sure your source is reliable!** We live in a world with an oversaturation of information, some of it inaccurate. To ensure that your research is viable, ask yourself the following questions.
    - i. **Who wrote it?** Who is your author and are they qualified and unbiased enough to be taken for fact? Are they peer reviewed?
    - ii. **What type of website is it (only applicable for web sources)?** Did you get information from a website that is trying to sell something? Do they have a financial or political agenda? Is it a .gov, .edu, .org, .com, etc...?
    - iii. **Is your source education focused?** Is the primary effort of your source to educate people?
  - b. **Build from what other people have discovered.** A goal of science is to continue building from the works of others. Maybe other people have done similar experiments to the one you have in mind. It is worth looking at what other people have done so perhaps you can avoid mistakes that they made or make improvements that they might help suggest.

## Resources:



**Control Variable:** A value that is kept constant throughout the experiment so that your results can be compared back to something.

**Manipulated Variable:** A value that is being tested and changed throughout the experiment. Sometimes called the independent variable.

**Measured Variable:** A value that is measured in order to mark change in the manipulated variable. In other words, what unit of measurement are you using to evaluate your controlled and manipulated variables.

## Websites:

<https://www.sciencebuddies.org/>

<https://sites.google.com/a/kansassciencefair.com/kansas-state-science-and-engineering-fair/>

## Notes:

This enrichment opportunity is solely focused on the first two steps of the Scientific Method. I do not recommend that students work beyond that point as additional instruction will be given once the school year has begun. I will readily be responding to emails over the Summer, so please send any questions to [ksimons@topeka collegiate.org](mailto:ksimons@topeka collegiate.org).

## Summer 2021 – Optional Spanish Enrichment

---

### **Abstract:**

The purpose of this enrichment opportunity is to give returning students the opportunity to reinforce and further explore the Spanish language. This summer, I am inviting students to continue their language study by using the websites below. Please note that any work done over summer is entirely optional, but extremely advantageous for all middle school students in the fall.

### **Resources:**

- 1) <https://www.thespanishexperiment.com/stories> - The Spanish Experiment is a good place to find classic fairy tales in Spanish. You can show the English translation right on the website with the click of a button. Hearing and reading Spanish is one of the best ways to learn, so just enjoying a story is good for keeping up your Spanish skills.
- 2) <https://www.spanishdict.com/vocabulary> - SpanishDict Vocabulary is a great quiz program that helps you expand your vocabulary. It's like DuoLingo lite.
- 3) <https://www.duolingo.com/> - DuoLingo is a great language learning program that gives you rewards for reaching daily goals. It is good for setting a routine over the summer.





### Abstract:

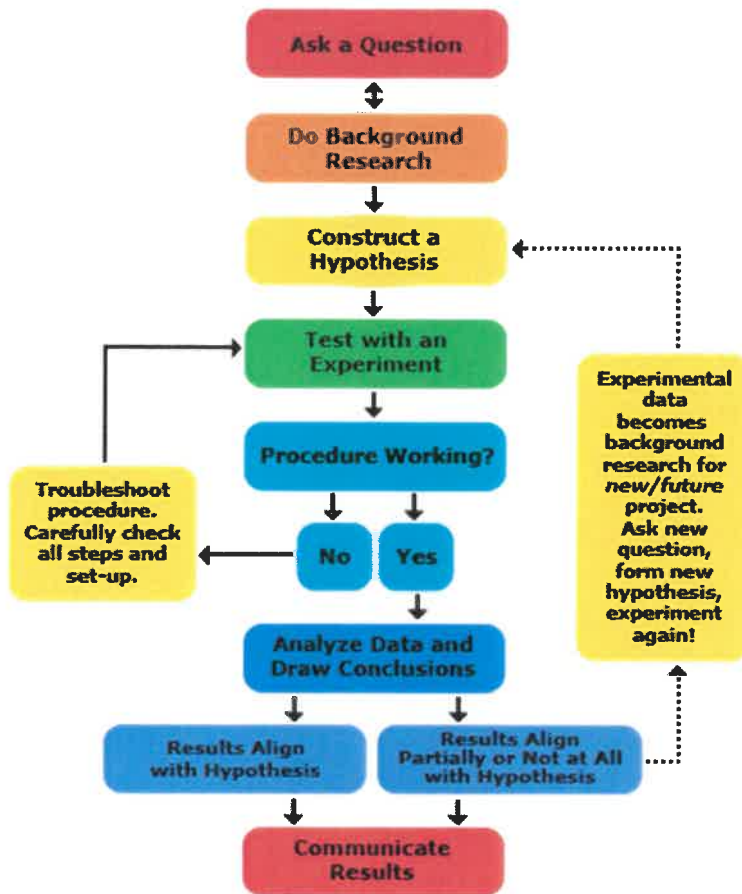
The purpose of this enrichment opportunity is to give returning students the opportunity to get a head start for next school year's Science Day Exhibition. Science Day is a Fall, semester long project where students are tasked with working in a group or by themselves on a project which utilizes the scientific method. Sometimes, the most challenging part is coming up with a good project idea. This Summer, I am tasking students to brainstorm ideas by using the following guidelines below. Please note, that any work done over Summer is entirely optional, but extremely advantageous, as it is a mandatory project for all Middle School students in Fall.

### Instructions:

1. The flow chart on the next page reflects the process of the scientific method. The first step, is always **asking a good, scientific question**. Use the following guidelines below to develop one.
  - a. **Pick a topic you are interested in!** Science is an incredibly broad field of study and you can turn almost any hobby or passion into a science experiment. This will increase the enjoyment you will get from designing your project.
  - b. **Consider your variables.** A question is not ready to be tested unless you can clearly define your variables. There are three variables to consider listed and defined on the next page.
  - c. Here are some examples of questions from last year's Science Day.
    - i. Does the color of light a plant receives affect that rate at which that plant grows? If so, which color of light allows a plant to grow fastest?
    - ii. Do children fail to determine the difference between medicine and similar looking candies and if so, what age groups fail?
2. **Begin research.** The second step of the scientific method is to do background research. Use evidence from other, similar experiments to support and design your own.
  - a. **Make sure your source is reliable!** We live in a world with an oversaturation of information, some of it inaccurate. To ensure that your research is viable, ask yourself the following questions.
    - i. **Who wrote it?** Who is your author and are they qualified and unbiased enough to be taken for fact? Are they peer reviewed?
    - ii. **What type of website is it (only applicable for web sources)?** Did you get information from a website that is trying to sell something? Do they have a financial or political agenda? Is it a .gov, .edu, .org, .com, etc...?
    - iii. **Is your source education focused?** Is the primary effort of your source to educate people?
  - b. **Build from what other people have discovered.** A goal of science is to continue building from the works of others. Maybe other people have done similar experiments to the one you have in mind. It is worth looking at what other people have done so perhaps you can avoid mistakes that they made or make improvements that they might help suggest.



## Resources:



**Control Variable:** A value that is kept constant throughout the experiment so that your results can be compared back to something.

**Manipulated Variable:** A value that is being tested and changed throughout the experiment. Sometimes called the independent variable.

**Measured Variable:** A value that is measured in order to mark change in the manipulated variable. In other words, what unit of measurement are you using to evaluate your controlled and manipulated variables.

## Websites:

<https://www.sciencebuddies.org/>

<https://sites.google.com/a/kansassciencefair.com/kansas-state-science-and-engineering-fair/>

## Notes:

This enrichment opportunity is solely focused on the first two steps of the Scientific Method. I do not recommend that students work beyond that point as additional instruction will be given once the school year has begun. I will readily be responding to emails over the Summer, so please send any questions to [ksimons@topeka-collegiate.org](mailto:ksimons@topeka-collegiate.org).

