

Intensified Biology & Chemistry Science Project Summer "Announcement" (SY 24-25)

Requirement:

To prepare for the intensive writing and independent investigations in APS advanced science courses (IB and AP), you will refine your experimental and writing skills through an Independent Science Project (often referred to as a "Science Fair" Project). This project must be experimental, involving data collection and analysis, not just a research report. Your Intensified Science Teacher **MUST** approve your idea in September. Do not proceed without this approval. APS follows the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) for projects: <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/forms/>. All projects must comply with these rules.

Note: WL does **not** allow projects involving human subjects or vertebrates. Partner projects are permitted only if both partners have the same teacher at WL.

The Science Project is required and must be completed in the first semester according to your teacher's schedule. **Summer work on the project idea and design is OPTIONAL, but your Project Idea will be due by the 2nd week of school.**

Research:

You can take time this summer when things are less stressful to research a science topic that interests you. It does not need to be related to the course content but must be science-based. (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science, Engineering). Substantial projects will have societal importance and relevance. Once you have some good ideas, you can share them with your teacher in August.

Reflect:

- Is this an interesting enough question to investigate for a full semester?
- Is this a question that has some societal importance or relevance?
- Is this a realistic project for me to undertake, given my schedule? If not, how can I simplify it?
- Do I have the necessary equipment or access to equipment?
- Is it affordable?
- If I am growing plants or seeds do I have an indoor space with plant lights to use since I won't be able to grow plants outside in the colder months of fall?
- Can I get meaningful results in 4-6 weeks of data collection?
- Have I avoided topics involving human subjects or vertebrates that are not permitted as WL? If it is a microbiology project, please check with Mrs. McCoart in the fall, who will be your supervisor, and have a backup idea!

Get Advice over the Summer:

Mary Fretts mary.fretts@apsva.us or Dawn McCoart dawn.mccoart@apsva.us
Expect some delay in response time over the summer!