

## **RESEARCH SEMINAR IN SCIENCE EXPECTATIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **MENTORS:**

Mentors will include professional scientists who will provide research questions for students that relate to the mentor's own area of research, will avoid socially controversial projects and will determine what aspects of the research project are reasonable and prudent for a high school student to participate in; i.e., are reasonably free of life threatening situations or hazards.

Mentors will also instruct student(s) in proper laboratory practice and assure that their student(s) consistently observes all safety practices and reports any infraction of safety practices to the Science Research Coordinator/Supervising Teacher of the student's high school.

### **SCHOOL PROJECT COORDINATOR/SUPERVISING TEACHER:**

Teachers will provide instruction on the concepts and skills necessary for students to follow the mentor's directions. They will provide instruction on the safety concerns and proper techniques relating to the lab skills taught in the classroom, provide guidance and assistance for students in selecting a mentor, provide guidance and assistance for students in selecting a research question, designing and conducting the research project. They will provide coordination and oversight between the student and the mentor as well as monitor the progress of the student's research and the student/mentor relationship. They will provide mentors and students with the opportunity for program evaluation and modification.

Supervising teachers also have the responsibility to place students in appropriate research projects and avoid socially controversial projects. Together with the mentor, the supervising teacher will identify any hazards inherent in the research project and with the assistance of the mentor will make certain the student has been properly trained to protect the student's health from those hazards. In addition to this, the supervising teacher is responsible to spot check and follow-up with the student and mentor to confirm the educational mission is being achieved as well as conferring with the student that the assignment is suitable. Any complaints or problems registered by the students should be addressed immediately.

### **STUDENTS:**

Students are expected to acquire knowledge of the concepts and the skills necessary to conduct the research projects, to select a research project with the guidance of a mentor, and to conduct the research. Students are also expected to conduct themselves maturely and responsibly at their high schools and at any off site activity including their mentor's laboratory, to establish and maintain regular communication with their mentor on the progress of the

project, to dress in an appropriate attire and to arrive and depart as scheduled. In the event that he/she will be absent, the student is expected to notify the mentor and supervising teacher (as early as possible).

Students are also responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from the mentor's research lab. The Boulder Valley School District will be held harmless by the student and his/her parent/legal guardians from any injuries or claims associated with the student's providing his/her own transportation. Students are expected to follow all safety instructions and observe all safety practices. Students are expected to report to their mentor and project coordinator/supervising teacher any situation or condition for which the student is uncomfortable. If the student is assigned to a research project and the student feels it is not a good fit (is uncomfortable with the mentor or the nature of the research), the student needs to immediately notify the project coordinator/supervising teacher and a reassignment can be made. If the student has a special health condition i.e., allergies, pregnancy, the student must notify his/her supervising teacher and mentor who will determine if the student has needs that exceed the high safety standards of the typical scientific research lab. If their exposure to risks cannot be sufficiently modified, their placement in the program will be changed. Failure to follow the above instructions, the mentor's safety instructions, or those of the supervising teacher will result in the students immediate dismissal from the program.

### **LABORATORY SAFETY:**

Special precautions should be taken to assure student safety at all times. Eye protection, face shields, gloves and aprons as well as any other personal protective equipment should be worn whenever the mentor indicates it is needed. When in doubt, the students should always err on the side of safety and protect themselves. Eye washes, drench showers and evacuation procedures should be understood and available. The Boulder Valley School District has science safety instructions that apply to the normal science curriculum offered in middle and high schools. These safety instructions should be viewed as minimal levels of safety. They are not intended to address the various hazards associated with research at a university, medical school, government labs or professional research facilities. The professionals conducting the research should be viewed as having the final decision with respect to minimum safe laboratory practices.

### **LIABILITY:**

\_\_\_\_\_, an employee with \_\_\_\_\_,

by serving as the Mentor, agrees as follows:

1. To protect the confidentiality of the Student's educational records and personally identifiable information in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., their enacting regulations, and the Colorado Public Records Act, COLO. REV. STAT. §§ 24-72-201 et seq.

2. To comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, which, collectively, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex or age; and with the provisions of School District policy AC, Nondiscrimination.
3. Each party agrees to be responsible and to assume liability for its own wrongful or negligent acts or omissions, or those of its officers, agents or employees to the full extent allowed by law and without waiving Colorado governmental immunity. The Mentor agrees to notify the School District's Office of Risk Management (303-447-5022) and the Supervising Teacher promptly of any accident or injury that may result in such claims or potential claims.

If any loss or damage is a result of the intentional act of the student, the student and his/her parent(s) will be held liable for such loss.

The School District's workers' compensation applies to students in off-campus learning programs at the Mentor's location.

We have read the above and agree to abide by this set of expectations and responsibilities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor's Name and Workplace

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and School of Supervising Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and School of Principal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date