

Ethics in Research Agreement

We are committed to bringing students the opportunity to conduct research through the process of inquiry. Research is a critical aspect of education and of our society. Schools and industry looking for emerging talent are increasingly emphasizing the importance of having the skills to perform research and problem solve.

We are affiliated with the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) and therefore, all projects entered require teacher approval and many (*depending on the topic*) will require review by a Scientific Review Committee (SRC). The SRC's purpose is NOT to scrutinize the viability of the project, but rather to review safety, privacy, and other issues of accepted ethical behavior in research.

Students have the opportunity to compete for prize money and awards each year. Additionally, many projects are chosen to move on to regional and state competition. ***It is critical that we maintain a high degree of integrity in the research that is conducted at our school/in our programs.*** The following list includes behaviors which are NOT allowed, and infractions that can result in significant consequences. Please read them over carefully.

- **Not following the procedure(s) in the approved experimental design.** *This does not include minor logistical and other convenience alterations, but applies to changes that may affect human safety and privacy, humane treatment of animals, property damage, liability issues, protocols & regulations, or the intent of the project. When in doubt, please talk with your teacher and/or an SRC member.*
- **Misrepresenting experimental results in any way, which includes the following:**
 - Altering collected data
 - Adding trials that were not performed
 - Any other form of data fabrication (don't make up your data...)
- **Claiming credit for work not done by the student.** *If it's not your work or idea, make sure you cite the proper owner.*
- **Making up the entire project.**
- **Conducting the project before SRC approval, if it is required as part of your topic.** *This does not include preliminary investigations for hypothesis development.*
- **Forging any signatures on required paperwork.**
- **For human subjects projects – not following the exact protocol submitted on Form 4 and in the project design.** *This is particularly important because of Federal regulations governing human subject research.*

In most instances, violations of any of the above will result in a zero (0) on the entire project as well as return of all money, awards, plaques, and other recognition that may have been won.



STUDENTS:

Please sign to indicate that you have read and understand the conditions stated above and agree to adhere to these standards.

Student Signature

Date

PARENT/GUARDIAN:

Please sign to indicate that you have read and understand the conditions above. Feel free to call your student's teacher with any questions.

Parent Signature

Date