

Structures

2016-2017 RESEARCH



Dear Families,

One of our goals in ALPHA is to provide opportunities for student-selected and student-directed learning. It is through this type of learning that students take ownership and pride in their work. This year students will complete an independent research project on an iconic building to go along with our STRUCTURES unit of study. Each student will present at the Blattman ALPHA Research Showcase Night which will be held on **March 2, 2017**.

Research is a desired, valued learning process for gifted students. Understanding the research process is the ultimate goal, as it will enable your child to effectively design and pursue their own scholarly behavior of thirsting for knowledge.

Our classroom lessons will focus on: using a variety of resources to gather information, formulating in-depth questions, thinking independently, finding and recording meaningful information in order to develop a full research report, and culminating their understanding with an oral presentation. Students will be given time in class to complete most of their research, however, they may need more time at home to complete any unanswered questions.

ALPHA students will be completing most of their structure research in class, but **a creative product must be completed at home**. Students are required to create a structure (costume) to be worn during our ALPHA Research showcase Night. (More details about this project can be found in this packet.)

The key to doing well on this project is organization! Students will be given a timeline that outlines tasks to be completed during each week. It is the intention that this timeline will give your student direction and allow them to manage research time wisely. Timeline deadlines need to be adhered to if the student hopes to finish their project by March 2nd.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

You can reach me at sasha.chervinskis@nisd.net or 210-397-4644

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sasha Chervinskis

Creative Product

At-Home Project

Students are required to take the perspective and be the structure during our ALPHA Research Showcase night... "Structures Alive" on March 2, 2017. The at-home project is to create a costume of their structure. The building costume should include a body and head piece.

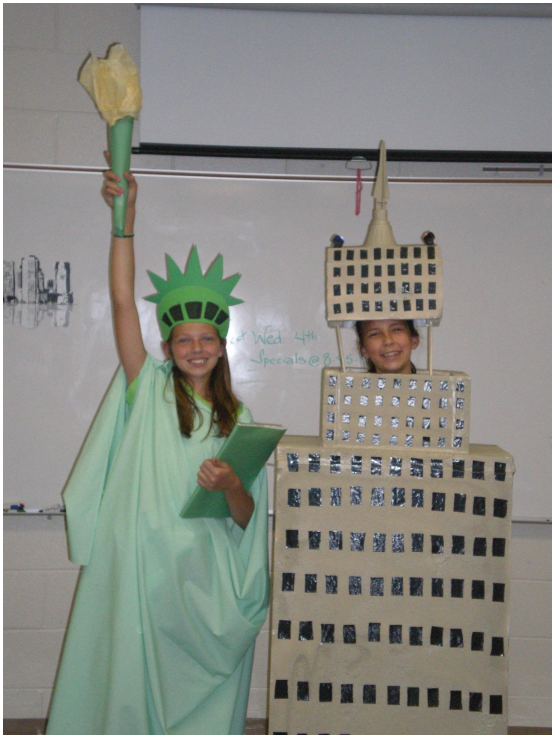
Students should be creative with the materials they use to construct their structure (costume), such as cardboard boxes, old sheets, recycle items, paint...the sky's the limit on the various materials students can use to create a one-of-a-kind piece.

Creativity will play a crucial part in your child's end of year Performance Report. In order to score well students will need to apply the creative thinking skills which involves fluency, flexibility, originality and elaboration. It's imperative that your child takes their time to design and create a unique and sophisticated product and performance.



Structures Alive

And the Stories They Tell ...



Structures

Bridges:

Brooklyn Bridge
Golden Gate Bridge

Skyscrapers:

Citicorp Building
World Trade Center - Twin Towers
Empire State Building
Burj Khalifa
Willis Tower
Chrysler Building
30 Street Mary Axe
Taipei 101
The Burj Al Arab
Flatiron Building
Lloyds Building
Petronas Towers
The Shard
Bank of America - New York City
One World Trade Center

Homes:

Neuschwanstein Castle
Falling Water
Palace of Westminster
White House

Tunnels:

Eurotunnel

Dams:

Hoover Dam
Three Gorges Dam

Towers:

Leaning Tower of Pisa
CN Tower
Washington Monument
Eiffel Tower
Hearst Tower

Structures/Monuments:

Roman Colosseum
Sydney Opera House
Statue of Liberty
Great Wall
Sagrada Familia
Gateway Arch
Angkor Wat
Christ the Redeemer
AT&T Stadium
Khazneh El-Farun
Big Ben- The Houses of Parliament
Saint Peter's Basilica
Cathedral of Notre Dame
Bird's Nest
Taj Mahal
Borobudur Temple

Other Structures:

ALPHA Research Project Timeline

| Plan of Attack at School | Plan of Attack at Home | Suggested Timeline |
|---|--|--|
| <u>Lesson:</u> Presearch - Choose 4 buildings to presearch | Read & sign research contract. Parent & student signatures required. Return contract to class next week. | January 2-6 |
| <u>Lesson:</u> Research Questions- Generate 3 Higher Level questions | Finalize your 3 Higher Level Questions at home with parents. Begin looking for sources and bring them to class next week. | January 9-13 |
| <u>Lesson:</u> Note-Taking and Plagiarism Begin research & taking notes in class | <u>Unfinished class work:</u> Continue Research & Note-taking | January 17-20 |
| <u>Lesson:</u> Creating an organized outline Continue Note-taking/research Conference with individuals | <u>HW:</u> Begin Structure Costume <u>Unfinished class work:</u> Continue Note-taking and organizing them into a research report. Research notes should be completed by next ALPHA class. | January 23-27 |
| <u>Lesson:</u> Writing a Hook - 6 word Memoir Type research paper: Rough Draft Conference with individuals | <u>HW:</u> Work on Structure <u>Unfinished class work:</u> Rough Draft must be completed by next ALPHA class. | Jan. 30 - Feb. 3 |
| <u>Lesson:</u> Conference with individuals - Edit and Revise Report 1st & 2nd Gr GT Testing - Limited class time - 1 hour only | <u>HW:</u> Work on Structure Costume <u>Unfinished class work:</u> Edit and Revise Research Report | February 6-10 |
| <u>Lesson:</u> Conference with individuals - Finalize Research Reports Create Notecards for Presentation | <u>HW:</u> Work on Structure Costume <u>Unfinished class work:</u> Finalize Research Report and create notecards for presentation. | February 13-17 |
| <u>Lesson:</u> Public Speaking All Research should be completed Peer Reviews - present in for peers | <u>HW:</u> Put finishing details on costume. Costume must be completed by next ALPHA Class Practice presentation in front of family members | February 21-24 |
| Practice presentation in front of peers in full dress rehearsal. | Practice Presentation in front of family in friends | February 26 - March 1 |
| STRUCTURES ALIVE And the Stories They Tell... Blattman ALPHA Research Showcase Night | | Thursday March 2, 2016 6:00p.m. |

ALPHA Research & Project Agreement

My selected research topic for this year is:

My research expectations and responsibilities:

- come to class prepared with binder, homework, and research materials/notes.
- formulate higher level investigative questions.
- use a variety of resources to gather information.
- make good use of class time to organize information.
- create a research report and presentation.
- create a unique structure costume at home.
- rehearse my oral presentation in class and at home.

I, _____ have received the ALPHA Research & Project Letter and Timeline, and have reviewed the expectations with my parent/guardian. I will use the suggested timeline to prepare for the Blattman Research Showcase Night, "STRUCTURES ALIVE" on March 2, 2017 at 6:00p.m.

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

Presearch

Name: _____

Presearch information on your favorite 4 structures. Make sure your structure has enough interesting information for you to complete an entire research report and presentation.

Structure: _____ Age: _____ Architectural Style: _____

Architect's Full Name: _____

Interesting topics to further my research on this structure.

Structure: _____ Age: _____ Architectural Style: _____

Architect's Full Name: _____

Interesting topics to further my research on this structure.

Structure: _____ Age: _____ Architectural Style: _____

Architect's Full Name: _____

Interesting topics to further my research on this structure.

Structure: _____ Age: _____ Architectural Style: _____

Architect's Full Name: _____

Interesting topics to further my research on this structure.
