

# Interview with a Scientist (Parent Consent Form)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In an effort to develop student interest in science and to broaden their understanding of how science is done, particularly in the professional realm (in "the real world,"), I have assigned a project in which they will need to interview a scientist. The project details are below and I have already discussed with students my expectations and requirements for this project, at length. However, since this project can potentially involve students communicating with another adult, I would like you, as a parent, to be involved in this project by monitoring (and if possible, assisting) your student as they communicate and interview a scientist. Students do have the option of interviewing someone in the family who may work in a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) field, however I do encourage them to interview someone who may not be as familiar, or works in a field of science that is of particular interest to them.

This project will account for a fairly significant project grade in their overall science grade. I will provide a rubric for my grading in the near future.

Please read the project instructions below and sign the consent statement after, and have your child return it to me.

If you have ANY questions regarding this project, please do not hesitate to email me at [stharayil@school.stjohnedes.org](mailto:stharayil@school.stjohnedes.org). I will be happy to answer any questions or address any concerns you may have.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tharayil

## **Project Instructions:**

For this project, your student is to **conduct an interview with a scientist**.

A scientist could be anyone who works in any scientific, engineering, technological, or mathematical field. For example, you could choose to interview someone who is an aerospace engineer, an astronomer, or even your doctor or a surgeon, etc.

\*While science teachers are scientists, you may not interview one, I would like you to interview someone who does science outside of the K-12 school setting.\*

While I would prefer students to interview someone who is not a member of your immediate family, if there is someone within the family who you think qualifies as a scientist, then that will be acceptable. I strongly encourage you to interview someone who works in the field of science in which you are most interested, though.

The interview does NOT have to be a face-to-face interview (though, that would be highly encouraged!). Students MAY interview the scientist via phone or even by email. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU, AS A PARENT, MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCIENTIST, EVEN IF IT IS VIA PHONE OR EMAIL. Ensure that you are aware of who your child is contacting, by what means, and the content of their communication.

Your child will **ask the scientist the following questions:**

- In which field of science do you study/work?
- What is your role/job/title? Where do you work?
- Briefly describe your most current project on or a recent fascinating/challenging case you were involved with.
- What do you like most about science and your particular field of scientific study?
- What do you find most challenging about it?
- In your work, do you follow a particular scientific method, or a sequence of steps every time, or does your process change/vary depending on your project/case?
- How does science impact your faith, spirituality, or moral beliefs?
- Two-three other questions of her/his own.

*\*If the scientist does not feel comfortable answering any of these questions, then you can give them the option of passing. However, students should ask them at least 7-8 questions. That means your child should have a series of additional back-up questions to ask your scientist.*

After students conduct their interview, they will **write a 1-2 page report** and reflection on the interview. Their report and reflection must:

- Explain why they chose to interview this person.
- Provide a summary of the interview (i.e. a summary of the scientist's answers to each question)
- Reflect on what they learned about science from your interview
  - What is doing science like in the "real world"?
  - What new thing did your child learn about how science is done in the real world?
  - How does what your child learned from his/her interview impact his/her future pursuits of scientific study?

## **Due Wednesday October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012**

-----\*Please sign and date the parent consent form below\*-----

I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent of \_\_\_\_\_ have read and  
(Parent's name) (Student's name)

understood the instructions listed above for my student's "Interview with a Scientist" project. I consent to my child's participation in this project and will monitor his or her communication with the scientist. I understand that if I have any questions regarding this project, I do have the option of contacting Ms. Tharayil via email and can expect a timely reply.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)