

Welcome to Science Research

at New Paltz High School.

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Expectations for the Student

All students in an approved SRHS course are required to:

- Attend all scheduled SRHS classes. **N.B. The only exceptions to mandatory class attendance are for Seniors who have extreme scheduling difficulties. These will only be accepted with teacher approval.**
- Commit to 240 or more hours per school year for their research work.
 - Class time (90 hours).
 - Assessment meetings (one every two weeks, 20 hours).
 - Out of class time (3.5 hours/week, total 140 hours).
 - **N.B.** – We are aware that most classes do not meet for a full hour at a time. This is not a problem. For the student's out of class time where the student does not have to deal with school clocks and bell schedules, an hour is an hour, 60 minutes.
- Maintain a laboratory notebook of all research course experience.
 - This must be a bound notebook with numbered, pressure sensitive duplicate pages which can be removed. This is typical of most research laboratory notebooks.
- Maintain a portfolio of all research associated work. The portfolio must contain at least all of the following sections:
 - Interleaf sheets from the Laboratory Notebook.
 - Records of all communications: telephone, face-to-face, e-mail, letters, faxes, etc.
 - Bi-weekly goal sheets.
 - Bibliographic research searches and results.
 - All journal articles that are read.
 - One-to-one assessment sessions including bi-weekly assessment sheet.
 - Copies of all class and non-class public presentations.
 - Copies of all research papers written.
 - Semi-annual research abstracts of the work to date.
 - It is **strongly suggested** that the following sections be included:
 - Any grants obtained.
 - Rules from various competition and other venues for presentation.
 - Honors, recognitions, news clippings, etc.
 - Other pertinent information as deemed important by the course instructor.
- Create a poster presentation of their annual research work.
 - Sophomores should create a poster based on a peer reviewed paper they have presented in class. In any case they should NOT present what they want to do or plan to do unless they are already working with a mentor who has approved their plans.
 - Juniors should create a poster based on their own review of literature and their work so far.
 - Seniors must create a poster based solely on their own research findings.
- Enter available venues for presenting their research at all stages of the work.

Sophomores must also:

- Keep a demonstrable log of where their time on research goes.
- Advance to the level of reading peer reviewed journal articles by mid-winter of the Sophomore year.
- Present an appropriate, peer reviewed research paper to their classmates and teacher at least once during the school year.
- Conduct thorough and exhaustive literature searches on their chosen topic.
- Do all possible to obtain a mentor.
- Collaborate with the mentor (once there is one) on a hypothesis and begin writing a research plan.
- It is **strongly suggested** that Sophomores continue their research work during the Sophomore/Junior summer. This can be in an internship or other organized program, or individually as long as the mentor approves the work.

Juniors must also:

- Carry out the bulk of their experimentation and data gathering.
- Enter venues for competition as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Seniors must also:

- Present their research findings at their local school symposium and at least one other non-competitive venue (school board meeting, PTO, faculty meeting, civic organization, etc.).
- Write a scientific paper of their finished research.
- Enter available competitions as determined by the course instructor.
- Create a PowerPoint (or similar) presentation of their research findings.
- It is **strongly suggested** that they make a serious attempt to publish their work.