Dear Parents,

    We are only a few months away from our State Fair! March 20, 2020, will be here before you know it, and I would like to update you on the progress and timeline of your child's project. Please read this letter in its entirety as it contains all the information you need to know for this major project.

1. **RESEARCH PAPER:** Students have been working hard on developing their papers. We are focusing on following the writing process for each paragraph. These steps include:
    1) Prewriting — taking notes from a resource and writing these notes in an informal outline
    2) Drafting — using the informal outline to write a rough draft with a topic sentence, detailed sentences, and a conclusion sentence
    3) Revising and Editing — the students review their paper to make changes as needed
    4) Conferencing — the students meet with an adult to help them revise and edit their paper (thank for your help with this step!)
    5) Drafting — students are given class to type their final drafts and may need to finish at home if they do not get done in school

Students have been receiving a grade after each paragraph is submitted; thus, they will not receive an overall grade for the entire paper. We have been alternating between writing a paragraph and covering a chapter in the textbook. The students have been told how they will be graded for each paragraph. When the entire paper is complete, the students will need to print off a final report at home to have on display the day of the State Fair.

2. **DISPLAY BOARD:** I explained the display board to the students before Christmas Break. In this document you will find the requirements for the board as well as a suggested timeline for completing it. It is recommended that each student use this timeline to help teach him or her time management skills for a large project. The display board is due March 20, the day of the State Fair, and must be brought to school that day. **PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME OF THE TASKS FOR THE DISPLAY BOARD WILL BE DONE AT SCHOOL, BUT SOME WILL NEED TO BE DONE AT HOME; IT SHOULD REFLECT THAT THE STUDENT COMPLETED THE WORK.**

3. **PRESENTATION AT THE STATE FAIR ON MARCH 20:** On the day of the State Fair, students will have the **option** to participate in both of the following:
    1) Costume — Students may dress in costume or clothing depicting elements of their state. This could be as simple as wearing a shirt that has their state name on it. This is not a

dress down day for the students. Students must wear their uniforms to school and will be able to change into their costumes shortly before the fair. Costumes must meet the dress down day requirements that are stated in the handbook. Teachers have the discretion of not allowing students to wear their costume if they violate these rules.

     2) Souvenir — Students may make their own souvenirs that they can pass out to their guests. I will show them some examples from past years, but these could include magnets, decorated pencils, postcards, etc. I would suggest making about twenty total. Again, note that the students should make these. **NO FOOD ITEMS ARE ALLOWED.**

Thank you for your support as we continue to work on this project. Please review the attachments following this letter, and let me know if you have any questions!

Ms. Stec

<u>Suggested Timeline to Complete the Display Board</u>

<u>During the month of January</u>: Students will be given time during media class to work on the tasks listed below. Mrs. Kaiser will show the students how to safely use the Internet to find the information, download the information into a Word Document, and cite the URL. If the student does not finish the tasks below during media class, they will need to complete the tasks at home.

1. state song
2. motto
3. nickname
4. hand drawn or printed pictures of the following state symbols: bird, flag, tree, flower, animal, and one other symbol of the student's choice

<u>Week of Feb. 10</u>: Complete state license plate

<u>Week of Feb. 17</u>: Complete requirement about one state attraction

<u>Week of Feb. 24</u>: Complete requirement about one famous person

<u>Week of March 2</u>: Finish any requirement that has not been completed yet

<u>Week of March 16</u>: Affix all items onto the display board

**Please note that it is highly suggested that you do not mount completed projects on the display board until all projects are done to make sure that there is enough room

<u>March 20</u>: State Fair Day from 1:45-2:45 p.m. in the gym! Students must have the following this day:
1) display board
2) optional costume
3) optional souvenirs
4) printed copy of completed research paper

DISPLAY BOARD SPECIFICS

Each student will need to create a tri-fold display board (36 x 48) with various facts and information about their state. Teachers will supply all needed directions, but the materials needed for each activity will be the student's responsibility. Check off each activity when completed.

Each display board will need to contain the following items:

_____**State name** — This should be predominately displayed on the display board.

_____**Map of state** - This was completed in social studies class with Mrs. Jones. This completed project should be **mounted to construction paper** and attached to the display board.

_____**ABC chart** — This was completed in social studies class with Mrs. Jones. This completed project should be **mounted to construction paper** and attached to the display board.

_____**Words to the state song** — Should be **typed, mounted on construction paper with the URL,** and attached to the display board.

_____**State motto** - Should be **typed, mounted on construction paper with the URL,** and attached to the display board.

_____**State nickname** - Should be **typed, mounted on construction paper with the URL,** and attached to the display board.

_____**Pictures of the following state symbols: state bird, state flower, state tree, state animal, flag, and one other fact that the student may choose** — This will be started in media class and may need to be finished at home if the student does not get done at school. These pictures can be **hand drawn or printed from the computer.** Students will need to include **typed labels** for the pictures with the **URL under each item** if printed from the computer. These pictures should be **mounted to construction paper** and attached to the display board.

_____**License plate** — There is a link on Mrs. Kaiser's website to access pictures of each state's license plate. Use a piece of 8.5 x 11 printer paper. The student should make a drawing of their state's license plate. If there is more than one license plate for the state, the student can choose their design. This license plate should be **hand drawn** and completed with the paper going horizontally (it should take up most of the piece of paper). **Mount the license plate onto construction paper with the URL** and attach to the display board.

_____**Population Graph** — This will be started in computer class and may need to be completed at home if the student does not get done at school. There is a link on Mrs. Kaiser's website to access the information needed to complete the graph. Students will display the five highest populated cities in their state and display this information in a bar graph in Google Docs. This must include **a title, a label for each axis, a scale, the names of the cities, and the URL.** The graph should be **typed, mounted on construction paper,** and attached to the display board.

_____**Picture of at least one state attraction** — Students will either hand draw or download a picture of at least one of their state attractions that they wrote about in their paragraph for the research paper. The attraction should be **labeled.** A short **caption** of one to two sentences should be included about the attraction. This should be **typed, mounted on construction paper with the URL,** and attached to the display board.

_____**Picture of at least one famous person** — Students will either hand draw or download a picture of at least one of the famous people that they wrote about in their paragraph for the research paper. The picture should be **labeled.** A short **caption** of one to two sentences should be included about the famous person. This should be **typed, mounted on construction paper with the URL,** and attached to the display board.

_____ **Student name** – This should be written on the outside part of the display board to allow for easy identification of each board at school when the boards are closed.

The display board will be counted as a homework grade.

SCORING GUIDE USED TO GRADE THE DISPLAY BOARD
(Points will be deducted if URLs are not provided; the presence of an asterisk below indicates a URL is needed.)

PROJECT	POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS EARNED
1. Name of State	4	
2. Map	10	
3. State Symbols* (bird, flag, flower, tree, animal, and one other)	18 (3 points a piece)	
4. State Song*	10	
5. Nickname*	4	
6. Motto*	4	
7. ABC Chart	10	
8. License Plate*	10	
9. State Attraction*	10	
10. Famous Person*	10	
11. Population Graph*	10	
TOTAL POINTS:	100	

NOTE: I have changed some requirements from previous years so this example has some tasks on it that the students will <u>not</u> be required to complete; consequently, it does not have some tasks on it that I am asking the students to complete.

EXAMPLE OF A COMPLETED DISPLAY BOARD