



# Harrison Science Research

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## A First Note to Students:

Welcome to Science Research! This course combines all 3 years of the research program at Harrison. Sophomores, you are expected to narrow down a topic, read extensively in your field of interest, and find a mentor. Juniors, you are becoming experts in your field and beginning the planning stages for your research. Seniors, you are more than likely finishing up your research, analyzing results, and preparing for competitions. This will be a fun and exciting course, but as you know it requires a great deal of time and dedication. Each of you will be successful if you are willing to work hard, ask questions and engage in learning our learning community.

It is essential to arrive to class on time (after the bell rings is late – no exceptions!), pay attention, participate in class and always be prepared for your meetings. In addition, it is expected that you will help each other through the vital stages in your research and support each other in preparing to share your research with the scientific community.

## Course Description as Stated in Guide to Educational Planning:

The Harrison Science Research program invites all students to participate in authentic and original scientific research. This course encourages students to work with research scientists and professionals within their chosen area of interest. Students may conduct independent research in mathematics, life science, physical science, psychology, or the social sciences and are required to use technology to organize research (presentation software and data management systems). Students maintain a portfolio of their work, which provides the basis for assessment. All students prepare to enter local, regional, national, and international scientific competitions.

## Science Symposium & Science Fairs

- Each student is expected to participate in our annual **Science Symposium, which will be held on May 23, 2018, from 6 PM – 9 PM**. You are required to be in attendance for the entire event. This will count as 50% of your final grade.
- **Every student must participate in at least one science fair this school year**. The district will pay entry fees for one competition for each student. If you want to participate in more competitions, you are encouraged to do so, but you are responsible for any fees after the first fair. Participation in a science fair will count as the remaining 50% of your final grade.

## **Class Materials & Resources:**

- Composition Notebook  
*This notebook should be for day-to-day information, notes, and questions that are related to your research.*
- 3-Ring Binder with Divided Sections  
*Details will be provided in class, but there will be about 10 sections and it should be a 2-3" binder.*
- Google Drive  
*The use of apps within Google School will be required for the submission of materials. Having a digital portfolio of your research will be much easier to carry around than your 3-Ring Binder*
- Highlighters, Pencils, Black Pens, and Post-its

## **Student/Teacher Meetings:**

You will meet with your teacher several times per quarter. During these meetings, you should show evidence that you have completed all of the goals/tasks set in the previous meeting or provide a reasonable explanation as to why these goals were not able to be met. At the end of the meeting, goals for the next cycle are set and mutually agreed upon by the student and teacher. Due to scheduling issues, you may be required to meet outside of regular class time. If you are absent on your scheduled meeting day, you are responsible for scheduling a time with me to make it up.

## **Quarterly Presentations:**

In order to prepare for research competitions and the end of the year symposium, you will be responsible for at least one class presentation each quarter. This may take the form of either a PowerPoint presentation or through the use of a posterboard.

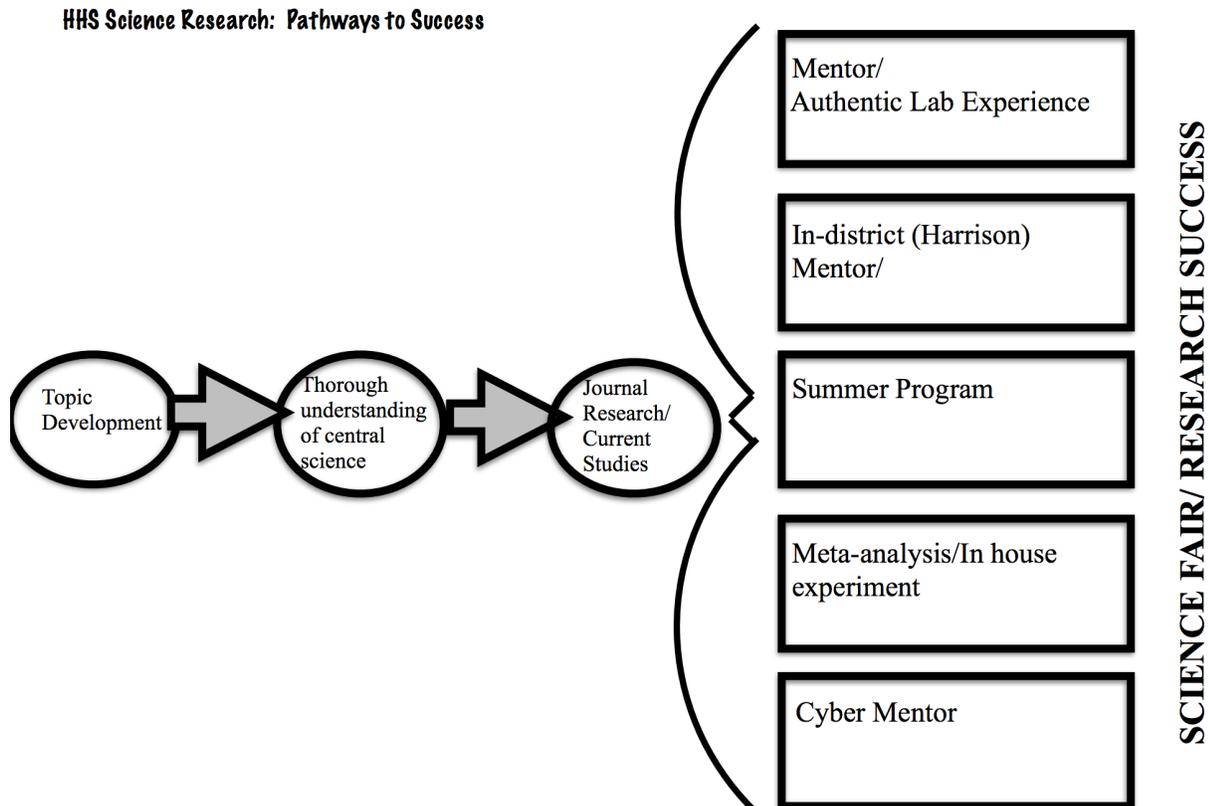
You will present either your own research or the research conducted by an expert in your field of study. Seniors and juniors will be expected to share their own research; sophomores will be presenting scientific studies/journal articles. When presenting someone else's research, you will detail the findings of a published research paper.

Aside from the presentation itself, you will also be required to practice the presentation ahead of time with another student in the class during a "coaching" session. Both you and your student coach must fill out a form showing that this has been completed. After your presentation, you will need to submit a reflection.

## Academic Integrity & Submission of Paper Assignments:

This is an especially important topic in a research-based class. All work submitted must be written in your own words. This is especially important at this stage in your research. Signs of plagiarism when submitting to competitions will not only disqualify you, but will also reflect poorly on both you and the Harrison Central School District. Any sign of copying will be dealt with very seriously.

## Paths to Success in Science Research:



## Grading Policies:

### *Quarterly Grade Breakdown*

Quarterly Grades will be based on a points system with three categories: Presentations, Meetings, and Assignments.

### *Yearly Grade Breakdown*

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	20 %
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	20 %
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	20 %
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	20 %