

# ***Scientific Research Can Be Fun***

## **FAQ**

Q1. What is the purpose of the Science Research Can Be Fun project?

A1. This project provides students with free access to age-appropriate, academic online research tools as the vehicle to develop:

- appropriate and interesting research questions;
- critical thinking skills to analyze information sources for credibility, bias and accuracy;
- confidence and competency in using Library databases to seek answers to research questions;
- effective ways to include and cite authoritative information to support or refute arguments; and
- the ability to write persuasive essays, reports and presentations that summarize and synthesize students' scientific research.

This project will also provide the Cupertino Library with information that will aid its efforts to better serve the community. To obtain this information the project will be used to:

1. To track and record a baseline number of CUSD students who register for Santa Clara County Library Cards and Student Cards during the 2011-12 CUSD school year.
2. Survey students to obtain a baseline number of uses of the following Santa Clara County Library's electronic databases: Access Science, New Book of Popular Science, Science Online, Science Reference Center and Brain Fuse during the 2011-12 CUSD school year.
3. To track and record a baseline number of middle school science-related reference questions answered by Cupertino Library staff during the 2011-12 CUSD school year.
4. To track and record a baseline number of middle school science-related programs offered by Cupertino Library staff during the 2011-12 CUSD school year.
5. To track and record a baseline number of class visits Cupertino Library staff conduct at CUSD middle schools during the 2011-12 CUSD school year.
6. To establish collaborative and mutually-supportive relationships between CUSD teachers and administrators and Cupertino Library staff during the 2011-12 CUSD school year.
7. To create and implement middle school science lesson plans requiring students to use library subscription online databases as one component of the research process during the 2011-12 CUSD school year.
8. To obtain anecdotal evidence from students, teachers, and parents demonstrating how the student research process has been enhanced through the use of Library print and online resources during the 2011-12 CUSD school year.

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Q2. What resources will be used to conduct age-appropriate, academic research?

A2. Students will use age-appropriate online subscription databases that are funded by the Santa Clara County Library to conduct their research for this project. Students will access these research tools with their Santa Clara County Library student card from any computer that has Internet access.

Q3. What are the specific age-appropriate online subscription databases and how are they to be accessed?

A3. The following is a list of the databases for this project and their direct access URL:

<http://www.santaclaracountylib.org/database/subjects/science.html>

Q4. Will users have to pay a subscription fee to access the databases?

A4. No, users do NOT pay a subscription fee to access the databases. The Santa Clara County Library pays a subscription fee so that library card holders may access the databases free of charge.

Q5. What is the benefit of using the Santa Clara County Library's subscription databases for this project?

A5. The Santa Clara County Library's subscription databases offer students options to use research tools that are more age-appropriate and subject-specific than resources found on the World Wide Web. Additionally, the databases do not feature or tailor search results to accommodate commercial advertising. The materials come at no-cost to the users.

Additional benefits include the ability to: search for academic, peer-reviewed publications and conference papers; read detailed article abstracts; and to access relevant charts, graphs, instructional videos, and other multi-media resources.

Q6. Can my child choose not to participate in the Science Research Can Be Fun project?

A6. No, your child's teacher has chosen to include this project as part of their curriculum to satisfy a number of the Science Content Standards for California Public Schools.

Q7. Who is participating in this project?

A7. This is a pilot program that has been introduced to a limited number of 6th, 7th and 8th grade classes at Cupertino, Kennedy and Lawson middle schools.

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Here is a list of the middle school science teachers who have elected to participate in this pilot program:

- |                        |                        |                         |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Alarid-Enright, Mary | 8th Grade Science      | Cupertino Middle School |
| • Esparza, Len         | 7/8th Grade Science    | Cupertino Middle School |
| • Harter, Susan        | 8th Grade Core/French  | Cupertino Middle School |
| • Iyer, Khadija        | 8th Grade Science      | Kennedy Middle School   |
| • McGrath, Lauren      | 6th Grade Math/Science | Kennedy Middle School   |
| • Nolan, Carol         | 7th Grade Science      | Lawson Middle School    |
| • Sun, Hannah          | 6th Grade Math/Science | Lawson Middle School    |

It is anticipated that additional CUSD middle school classes will participate in this program in future academic years.

Other members of the formation team are:

- |                          |   |                   |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
| • Bartholomew, Elizabeth | Children’s Service Librarian            | Cupertino Library |
| • Carino, Rebecca        | Curriculum Resource<br>Teacher          | CUSD              |
| • Fink, Mark             | Community Librarian                     | Cupertino Library |
| • Fitzgerald, Steve      | Supervising Librarian                   | Cupertino Library |
| • Grymes, Rose           | CLF Board Member                        | CLF               |
| • Lenihan, Beverly       | CLF Board Member<br>and Project Manager | CLF               |
| • McIntyre, Lloyd        | Project Coordinator                     | CLF               |
| • Moore, Pamela          | Supervising Librarian                   | Cupertino Library |
| • Quon, Phil             | CUSD Superintendent                     | CUSD              |
| • Schmidt, Eno           | CLF President                           | CLF               |
| • Snow, Tracy            | Teen Service Librarian                  | Cupertino Library |

CUSD – Cupertino Union School District

CLF – Cupertino Library Foundation

Q8. Is database access restricted to patrons who have Santa Clara County Library cards?

A8. Yes, access is limited to patrons who have active Santa Clara County Library card accounts.

Q9. Is there a charge for my child who attends a school in the Cupertino Union School District to obtain a Santa Clara County Library card?

A9. No, a Santa Clara County Library card is free to all students attending a school within the

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Cupertino Union School District. If students have lost their library cards, there is a \$1.00 fee to replace the lost card.

Q10. If my child lives in Sunnyvale or San Jose, will my child be able to use their library card from the Sunnyvale Public Library or the San Jose Public Library for this project?

A10. No, the Sunnyvale and San Jose Public Libraries are not part of the Santa Clara County Library District. For this project, your child will need to obtain a Santa Clara County Library card.

Q11. Who is the sponsor of this project?

A11. This project is sponsored by the Cupertino Library Foundation and the Cupertino Library.

Q12. Who should be contacted if more information is desired about the program?

A12. Contact Lloyd McIntyre at [lloydscience.mcintyre@gmail.com](mailto:lloydscience.mcintyre@gmail.com)