

Dear Parent,

We would like to inform you that your PreAP Science student will begin working on a Rube Goldberg machine project this month and will continue through January. This project will bring the ideas of Pulitzer Prize-winning artist Rube Goldberg's "invention" cartoons to life. To be specific, students will choose a simple, routine type of task and make it complex. The task could be something as simple as peeling an apple, sharpening a pencil, or putting toothpaste on a toothbrush, but instead of just "solving" the problem, students have to make the solution as complicated and as convoluted as possible. In fact, the more steps the better the machine. Basically, the Rube Goldberg machine is made of ordinary objects, mechanical gadgets, and other common materials linked together to somehow achieve the desired goal.

Your child will be expected to adhere to the due dates, rules, and regulations he or she has been given. Every student has been given a rubric outlining the scoring policy. Students should refer to this rubric often to confirm they are meeting expectations. Students are allowed to work with a partner, but have been informed of the risks and benefits. Teachers will not be responsible for solving problems that can occur when working with a partner.

To help your child succeed on this project, please be aware of the due dates, rules, and regulations. It is not necessary to purchase items for this project—we prefer students to find simple machines and materials around their house to use. If you or your child have any questions, please feel free to contact his or her Science teacher prior to a due date. We appreciate the encouragement and support you will provide throughout this project!

Sincerely,
Blalack Science Department

Rube Goldberg Machine Science Project ~ 2009-2010 Timeline
(subject to change as needed)

OCTOBER 26	Introduction and start of project
NOVEMBER 6	First 2 stages of project must be submitted to teacher via image/diagram
NOVEMBER 13	Stages 3 & 4 of project must be submitted to teacher via image/diagram
NOVEMBER 20	Stages 5 & 6 of project must be submitted to teacher via image/diagram
DECEMBER 11	Stages 7 & 8 of project must be submitted to teacher via image/diagram
JANUARY 8	Stages 9 & 10+ of project must be submitted to teacher via image/diagram
JANUARY 20	Completed Introduction and Description of working project is due to teacher & project is ready to bring to school within 24 hours of teacher request (assigned demonstration date)

Please cut and return the bottom portion to your Science teacher

We have received and understand the expectations and timeline for the PreAP Rube Goldberg Project.

Parent Signature / Date

Student Signature / Date