Science Fair Suggested Pacing Guide

July - Finalize Science Fair Program Evaluation from the Previous School Year

August - BACK TO SCHOOL, MARKETING & BRAINSTORMING
- Back to School/Open House - distribute information to parents and students about your school Science Fair
- Begin Marketing Campaign to develop student interest (shirts, meetings, guest lectures, field trips etc)
- Utilize lessons to focus on differentiating between <u>demonstrations and true experimental design process</u>
- Use activities to broaden students exposure to a variety of STEM topics
- Teachers - finalize list of possible SRC/IRB for the school/system

September - OFFICIAL PREP WORK BEGINS
- Students - submit 3 ideas or topics they want to explore for a science fair project
- Teachers - check with English teachers on cross curricular activities to teach Background Information Research, MLA and how to cite information correctly.
- Teachers - CHECK ENSURE SCIENCE FAIR IS ON THE SCHOOL CALENDAR

October - FINALIZE PREPARATIONS & BEGIN EXPERIMENTS
- Students - decide on Individual vs. Group Project
- Students - work with parents, teachers to finalize topic for science fair project
- Teachers - Distribute Science Fair Project Rubric, complete with due dates and points for each section (**it is highly encouraged that you review the GEARSEF rubric for this**)
- Students - create Scienteer accounts
- Students - use Scienteer Front Loading Worksheet to begin finalizing details of their research plan.
- Teachers - reviews student plans (online or frontloading)
- Students - begin creating Scienteer Research Plan (online or frontloading) and submit to SRC/IRB for approval if needed
- All - ISEF forms are reviewed, signed and approved PRIOR to project start date
- **Students should only begin Science Fair Projects after receiving proper project approval**

November - COMPLETE PROJECTS
- Students - work with Math Teachers to produce graphs and tables as needed to reflect the data collected
- Students - finalize Research Plan, Results, and Conclusion before Thanksgiving Break
- Teachers - begin contacting judges for science fair. Reach out to COSAM if you need assistance securing qualified judges

December - CHRISTMAS BREAK - SCIENCE FAIR PROJECTS DUE

- Early December - Teachers - complete GEARSEF Fair Registration form online with final fair dates and times to coordinate site visit if possible
- Teachers - begin review process with students. Edit sections as needed
- Teachers and students - review the ISEF Rules for Tri-Fold display boards
- Teachers - based on individual pacing modify timeline as needed to either require students to complete their Tri-Fold boards before Christmas break or allow students to use Christmas break to complete Tri-Fold boards
- Teachers - check with Department Head and Administrators if Science Fair Projects will be included in your school's Course of Study for the following year

January - FINAL PREPARATIONS & SCIENCE FAIRS

- Teachers - return projects to students to allow time for revisions before the school/district fair
- Teachers - prepare judges materials, finalize award certificates, plaques, trophies etc, and distribute handout to students on how to prepare for project presentations (attire, interview etc)
- ****School Science Fair should be held by the last week of January/first week of February****
- Teachers - advertise Science Fair winners in school media as well as local papers

February - FINISH SCIENCE FAIRS & SUBMIT WINNERS TO GEARSEF COORDINATOR

- **February 8** - completed Science Fair projects and/or school/district winners are uploaded to Scienteer for GEARSEF review. Any projects not submitted by this date may be excluded from participating at GEARSEF.
- Teachers - distribute and collect AU Minors on Campus Form for each student attendee at GEARSEF
- Teachers - check email for Project Violations and resubmit as needed
- Teachers - finalize plans for students to attend GEARSEF at Auburn University

March - GEARSEF

- Teachers and students - attend GEARSEF and Awards Ceremony

April - May - Alabama State Science Fair & INTEL ISEF

June - July - SCIENCE FAIR PROGRAM EVALUATION & REVIEW

- Teachers - use summer to evaluate items such as:
    - Pacing Guide
    - Science Fair School Wide Marketing Plan
    - Cross Curricular Coordination Plans with English & Math Teachers