

Dear parents and future 7th graders,

The 7th graders at BJH will be responsible for completing an insect collection at the beginning of the next school year. **Adequate time to complete the project will be given during the first quarter.** This is not a required summer project, but because insects are most plentiful during the summer, some students (and parents) may want to begin collecting insects before the school year starts. For that reason these suggestions and **general guidelines** for the collection are being provided now.

*Total of insects with different common names: **35** (this is a reduction from previous years primarily to reduce the grading time involved)

Each insect should be identified and labeled with its **common name** and **the order** to which it belongs (not the genus-species name).

For ex. Monarch butterfly - Lepidoptera; Eastern Tiger Swallowtail butterfly - Lepidoptera; Ladybird beetle - Coleoptera

Online resources can be used for identification as well as the many insect guides in the classroom.

No Arachnids (spiders, ticks, scorpions)

Only adult forms (no pupae, larvae, worms, caterpillars, or small nymphs)

Each student should do his own work regarding mounting, identifying and labeling. Parents and friends may help with the collecting and construction of display board or box, but their help is not required. Each student will complete a short parent-signed form that indicates how much help he or she received from others in the completion of the project. This will be used to help maintain fairness in the grading process. None of the insects should have been used in a collection before and none should be purchased.

Display board should be no larger than 36" x 22" x 4" high (preferably less than 30"x20"x4")

Suggestions:

Collect insects near ponds, in fields, near lights at night, under rocks & logs, and even in pool filters.



Euthanize insects using a killing jar with vapors from a cotton ball soaked with rubbing alcohol or by putting them in the freezer **for several hours (not days)**.

Put a pin through the insect's body soon after the insect is dead.

Insects tend to dry out and harden over time and become more difficult to pin without destroying them. Once each insect is pinned, it may be stuck into a Styrofoam board until it is placed on the display board. See the "Collection Suggestions" on Mr. Foster's web site for diagrams demonstrating the best methods to pin insects. Of course, **keep them in a safe place** away from pets and younger siblings, possibly in a **dry** air tight container so that other bug-eating bugs cannot get to them.

More information may be found at Mr. Foster's web page at **<http://www.7thgradelifescience.net>**. The website is a work in progress, and more links and information should be added to it during the summer. More specific guidelines can be found at the website.

Any questions can be emailed to JFoster@bju.edu