

Dear Parents, 2011

Cell Models:

Students in 7th grade Life Science will be assigned the task of building a 3-dimensional model representing either a plant cell or an animal cell this Monday. I am writing to you because it involves them gathering materials together with your help to build their models. This activity is designed to reinforce the concepts of cell structure and function. These concepts are often difficult for students to grasp since much of their exposure is through diagrams and text books. I will encourage the students to use their creativity when considering how to construct their models. The materials they use should be low/no cost and easily available around the home or in the community. The materials will represent the “organs”, or organelles, found in cells. These organelles have different functions and the non-living objects they use to represent these organelles should be analogous. For instance, the mitochondria convert and store food energy so a student might use old watch batteries for the mitochondria. It is not my intention for students to spend money on extravagant materials, but to rather think creatively about cell functions. Some of the basic model requirements include the following:

- The model must be three-dimensional
- The model must have a title indicating whether it's a plant cell or animal cell.
- All parts of the cell (as identified in the rubric and scoring guide) must be labeled somehow.
- The model cannot require refrigeration and must not gather mold, ants, or produce their own ecosystems in the classroom!
- There are other more specific requirements in the guide and rubric.
- Models are due **Monday, October 10th and are worth 87 Lab points**

Feel free to call or email if questions arise!
Mr. Thompson

