

Name: _____ Due: Wednesday, November 24th, 2004 SS Period: _____

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may know, all seventh graders at Eckstein Middle School complete a Project REACH board after winter break. This is probably the biggest project that your child will undertake this school year. During the holiday season, students may be visiting family members and places they do not normally see. Therefore, it is a great opportunity to start thinking about REACH!

REACH stands for "Respecting Ethnic And Cultural Heritage." The final product your child will produce is a large display board displaying information about his/her family's cultural/ethnic history. Students use pictures, photographs, maps, charts, drawings, flags, historical documents, interviews, etc. on their boards. We will hand out more information and begin research in class, as we get closer to the **Project REACH Fair on Thursday, March 17th, 2005**. We will hold an informational family night **tentatively scheduled for the evening of Thursday, January 6th** to explain guidelines and show examples from past years.

Family interviews are sometimes the most valuable aspect of research for many students, so we wanted to give everyone a "heads-up" in hopes that some discussion may go on during the holidays with special family members that your child may not get a chance to see later this school year. You may also be able to find some pictures to copy, or other important family artifacts. Below are guidelines/suggestions for picking topics.

Topic choices

1. **Family History-** Present information about an important aspect of your family's history. Also, you may focus your board to be a celebration of a family member.
2. **Country of Origin-** Present information about your family's connection to another country. Be sure to highlight how it relates to your family. This is not just a country report.
3. **Cultural/Ethnic Group-** Present information about an important aspect of your cultural or ethnic group. Again, be sure to show how you are connected to and what role it has had in **your** life.
4. **A family business-** Present information about a family business either from the past or present.
5. **Family hobby-** Present information about an important hobby practiced by your family for at least three generations.

Some points to think about when selecting a topic

1. You can modify a topic to best suit you. If needed you may combine several topics.
2. You have a lot of space to fill. Be sure to pick a topic that you can find much information about.
3. Remember that the boards will be displayed in public. Your family might not feel comfortable with some aspects of your family history being displayed in public.

At this point, you don't need to commit yourself to a topic, but we would like you to start thinking about possible topics. **Please returned this sheet signed by Wednesday, November 24th, 2004.** Students will get it back to refer to over Thanksgiving weekend.

Sincerely,
7th Grade Teachers

Parent Signature

Date