

May 19, 2022

Dear Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students and Parents,

As in previous years, rising 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be required to create a nature collection for their Life Science class. I am sending out this information now so that students can get started on their collections over the summer, since this is the best time to find bugs and leaves. The collection will be due on August 22, 2022. Students may bring in their collection as early as August 17 (Open House) if they would like. This project will count as two test grades.

Students have two collections to complete. Collection 1, students will collect ten *different* insects as specified in the included directions. Collection 2, students will collect ten *different* tree leaves.

### **Collection #1 Insects-**

Students will collect 10 insects. They must have 5 different orders of the following orders and no more than 2 different insect specimens from an order:

- Coleoptera (beetles)
- Diptera (flies, mosquitoes, gnats)
- Lepidoptera (moths, butterflies)
- Orthoptera (grasshoppers, crickets, katydids)
- Hymenoptera (ants, bees, wasps)
- Odonata (dragonflies, damselflies)
- Hemiptera (stink bugs, cicadas, leafhoppers, scale insects)

Students will need to keep track of each bug with the **common name, location at which the bug was found** and **date the bug was found**. *Students will be creating labels for each bug with the orders, scientific name, common name, location found, and date found in class **after** they have returned to school.* \*\*Please note that adult insects have six legs; spiders do not qualify. Also, please do not kill praying mantises.

### **Collection #2 Leaves –**

Students will collect 10 tree leaf specimens (a bush is not a tree). Students will be required to keep track of the date and location found for each leaf. ***After students return to school, labels for these will be created with the common name, location the leaf was found, date leaf was found and category of leaf blade type (either compound leaf or simple leaf).*** \* Compound leaves should have all leaflets.

The two collections will be completed neatly and with correct identification of the specimens. During the summer, the big task is to collect the bugs and leaves with the respective location and dates of the findings. The remaining identification will be labeled in class after the school year begins. The students will be using identification field guides available at school and other resources under the guidance of the teacher when we return in August.

**Collecting/Presentation –**

Attached is information, which explains the proper method of killing and pinning insects. Do not leave insects in the killing jar long after they are dead; they will begin to mold or fall apart. Take them out of the killing jar. For large insect specimens, pin them immediately after removing them from the jar. For small specimens, glue and mount them. This way the insects can dry before molding. The specimens need to be identified by the location and date of their collection. We will make more specific identifications together in class when we return and label bugs and leaves accordingly.

Leaves should be pressed between the pages of a book until dry and stiff, then glued onto thick paper which can then be slipped into a loose-leaf protector page and put into a notebook. Magnetic-type photo albums also work well for this purpose. The common names, location and date found should be recorded where the student is able to identify them. Labels will be created in class after returning.

I hope the nature collection will be a good learning experience for the students, as well as an enjoyable one. Please do not do the project for your child! I look forward to working with each of the students as we learn about our wonderful God and His marvelous creation.

Warmly.

Stephanie Dimeo  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Life Science Teacher  
sdimeo@gcswarriors.org

Example page for Leaf Collection:



Common Name: Maple  
Collected at Gypsy Hill Park  
September 20, 2019  
Student Name