

Assumption Middle School 2020 Popsicle Stick Bridge Project

Dear Parents, Guardians & Students,

The Popsicle-Stick Bridge Project (PSBP) started and it is nice to see many of the students and parents enthusiastic we are doing this. This week students are focused on planning, designing, and building their bridges, while next week they will have the opportunity to evaluate how well their bridges meet stated specifications and goals. Students will also have the chance to determine whose bridge is able to support the maximum load. In past years, the best constructed bridges have been able to support maximum loads between 70 and 100+ pounds.

Given current COVID-19 social interaction concerns and restrictions, we are providing two approaches to perform the PSBP Evaluation:

- 1) Students may drop-off their bridges and we will evaluate the bridges for them. Students are asked to include a copy of their updated Student Worksheet. We will record the evaluation results on the Student Worksheet and provide the results to the students via email attachment for completion. We ask:
 - That all bridge names be written on the bottom of the bridges.
 - That all worksheets have the students name on them.
 - Bridges can be dropped off at the Monday (6/8) school drop off/pickup, if ready.
 - Bridges can be dropped off on evaluation day, the earlier the better.
- 2) Students may perform/participate in their bridge evaluation **in accordance with Massachusetts social distancing guidance and directives**. Those wishing to participate or observe are asked to follow the COVID-19 safety rules:
 - By remaining at least six feet apart from people you are not living with.
 - By wearing face coverings or masks.
 - By following hygiene protocols.

Hand-sanitizing capabilities and frequent sanitization of touched items will be provided.

The PSBP Evaluation date is Thursday, June 11, weather permitting outside in the Assumption School yard starting at 9:00. Friday, June 12 is the scheduled rain date. The PSBP evaluation process consists of three teacher lead stations:

1. Station 1 Activities - Check-in, popsicle-stick count, weigh-in, dimension check, minimal 10 lb. load test and initial Student Worksheet check.
2. Station 2 Activity - Functional bridge crossing evaluation.
3. Station 3 Activities - Maximum weight load evaluation and final Student Worksheet check.

Activities at each station are expected to take 15 minutes. To minimize wait times, a schedule has been set-up for sign-up on a first-come first-served basis. Please email your requested start time to both Mr. Belair (steve.belair@assumption-cs-org) and Mrs. McElreath (melissa.mcelreath@assumption-cs.org). We will confirm your sign-up time and periodically post the sign-up sheet to the website as your requests are made.

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As students complete their evaluations and pass in their completed worksheet, the PSBP evaluation scoreboard on the website will be updated. Lastly, **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!** On-line ballots will be available on the website for you to vote on how well-built and aesthetically appealing each bridge is. You can vote on one or all the bridges. Students have been requested to send (to Mr. Belair) a picture of their bridge upon completion. Bridge pictures will be posted in the album located right above the ballot menu on the website. If you mouse-over the picture, the name of the bridge will pop-up. Voting and the posting of all information will be by bridge name.

Evaluation Start Time Sign-up		
	Time	Student
1	9:00	
2	9:15	
3	9:30	
4	9:45	
5	10:00	
6	10:15	
7	10:30	
8	10:45	
9	11:00	
10	11:15	
11	11:30	
12	11:45	
13	12:00	
14	12:15	
15	12:30	
16	12:45	
17	1:00	
18	1:15	
19	1:30	
20	1:45	
21	2:00	

If you have any questions, please let us know and check the Assumption School website on the STEM academic webpage for the latest PSBP updates and bridge evaluation progress. We anxiously await seeing the popsicle-stick bridges designed and built by the students.

Mr. Belair, Mrs. McElreath & Mrs. Olson