

Peninsula School District

Middle Schools

Goodman Middle School	253-530-1600
Harbor Ridge Middle School	253-530-1900
Key Peninsula Middle School	253-530-4200
Kopachuck Middle School	253-530-4100

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Please visit our website at www.psd401.net for more information and ideas regarding parent resources and curriculum in Peninsula School District.

April, 2009

Sixth Grade

Parent Guide

for
Curriculum
in the
Peninsula School District



*Students Learning...
Teachers Teaching*

A Message to Parents

The goal of this guide is to assist parents in supporting the learning of their children.

It provides information regarding what students are expected to learn at each grade level. This resource provides ideas for what parents can do at home to support the learning goals.

Skills will be introduced at various times throughout the school year. For concepts already taught, practice and review at home is valuable.

Parents and teachers share a tremendous and wonderful responsibility. Together they can provide the motivation for students to work hard and foster the desire to learn.

The Peninsula School District believes in the abilities of our students to achieve the high standards that have been set for them. The partnership of parents, teachers, and community is crucial for student success.

Together we can make a difference for every child.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Message to Parents.....	Page 1
What Parents Can Do.....	Page 2
Reading.....	Pages 3, 4
Writing.....	Pages 5, 6
Mathematics	Pages 7, 8
Science.....	Pages 9, 10
Social Studies	Pages 11, 12
Health and Fitness	Pages 13, 14
Visual Arts and Music	Pages 15, 16
Communication	Page 17
Washington State Learning Goals	Page 18
Peninsula School District.....	Page 19

Information in this booklet was gathered from various services including the Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) and several school districts throughout the state.



Washington State Learning Goals

- GOAL 1** *Read with comprehension, write with skill, and communicate effectively and responsibly in a variety of ways and settings;*
- GOAL 2** *Know and apply the core concepts and principles of mathematics; social, physical, and life sciences; civics and history; geography; arts; and health and fitness;*
- GOAL 3** *Think analytically, logically, and creatively, and to integrate experience and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems; and*
- GOAL 4** *Understand the importance of work and how performance, effort, and decisions directly affect career and educational opportunities.*

COMMUNICATION
Washington State Grades K-10
Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs)

Students Will . . .

1. Use listening and observation skills to gain understanding
 - ☞ focus attention.
 - ☞ listen and observe to gain and interpret information.
 - ☞ check for understanding by asking questions and paraphrasing.
2. Communicate ideas clearly and effectively
 - ☞ communicate clearly to a range of audiences for different purposes.
 - ☞ develop content and ideas.
 - ☞ use effective delivery of speech.
 - ☞ use effective language and style.
 - ☞ effectively use action, sound, and/or images to support presentations.
3. Use communication strategies and skills to work effectively with others
 - ☞ use language to interact effectively and responsibly with others.
 - ☞ work cooperatively as a member of a group.
 - ☞ seek agreement and solutions through discussion.
4. Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of formal and informal communication
 - ☞ assess strengths and need for improvement.
 - ☞ seek and offer feedback.
 - ☞ analyze mass communication.
 - ☞ analyze how communication is used in career settings.

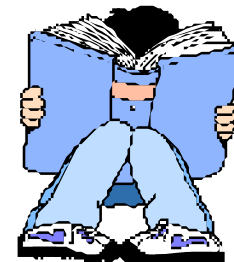


Ways Parents Can Help

- ☞ Ask your child to identify how body language conveys a message.
- ☞ Provide opportunities for your child to observe speeches, plays, etc. Help them to analyze the audience, purpose, topic and content.
- ☞ Share your points of view with your child and encourage your child to state his/her opinions. Encourage standard grammar and appropriate response.
- ☞ Be your child's audience when they practice for oral reports. Make sure that they know the audience, topic and purpose.
- ☞ With your child, tell about what happened during the day.
- ☞ Encourage your child to listen and observe alternatively (take notes, maintain eye contact.)
- ☞ When your child has a problem, ask him/her to think of two or three possible solutions and discuss those solutions.
- ☞ Provide opportunities for your child to participate in family projects and problem solving. Ask for your child to solve problems and offer possible solutions.
- ☞ Discuss the effectiveness of advertising techniques seen on television, billboards, in newspapers, or magazines. Discuss the main idea and whether the message is to inform or persuade.
- ☞ Provide opportunities for your child to interact and have discussion with people of all ages and cultures.
- ☞ Provide opportunities to visit museums, parks, zoos, aquariums, and cultural events and discuss them with your child. Have your child connect what they saw to what they have learned in school.

**What Parents Can do to Support
 The Learning Process**
















1. Prepare your children to learn. Let them know that school and learning are important and that parents are important partners.
2. Talk often about what is happening in school. Ask specific questions about schoolwork, teachers, and activities.
3. Attend events at your child's school. Back-to-school events, parent/teacher conferences, and other activities give parents a chance to get to know the teacher and to support their students.
4. Create a good learning environment at home. Support and reinforce what is being taught in the classroom. Ask questions that may have more than one answer. Provide supervision for the completion of homework assignments.
5. Visit community resources including libraries and museums. Explore cultural events. Take advantage of varied learning opportunities in the community.
6. Set high expectations and praise children often.
7. Limit television and video games.
8. Be involved in your school by volunteering or assisting teachers in other ways.
9. Allow your child to see you read, write, and use mathematics for pleasure as well as necessity.
10. Read with and to your child daily, no matter his/her age.



READING

Washington State Grades K-10 Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs)

Students Will . . .

1. Understand and use different skills and strategies to read
 -  use word recognition and word meaning skills to read and comprehend text.
 -  build vocabulary through reading.
 -  read fluently, adjusting reading for purpose and material.
 -  understand elements of literature - fiction.
 -  use features of non-fiction text and computer software.
2. Understand the meaning of what is read
 -  comprehend important ideas and details.
 -  extend comprehension by analyzing, interpreting, and synthesizing information and ideas.
 -  think critically and analyze author's use of language, style, purpose and perspective.
3. Read different materials for a variety of purposes
 -  read to learn new information.
 -  read to perform a task.
 -  read for literary experience in a variety of forms.
 -  read for career applications.
4. Set goals and evaluate progress to improve reading
 -  re-read to gain confidence and pace in a known text.
 -  re-read or self-correct their reading.
 -  re-read favorite books.



VISUAL ARTS AND MUSIC

Ways Parents Can Help

VISUAL ARTS

- Provide paints for your child to explore mixing colors.
- With paper and a pencil or a crayon have your child make a rubbing. Use objects such as leaves and long grass (found on a nature walk with your child) as the rubbing design.
- Provide opportunities for your child to carefully observe and draw from their environment.
- Observe and discuss with your child the designs of various buildings and products in the environment.
- Encourage your child to explore and create artworks by providing your child with a wide variety of art materials to use.
- Using art prints, sculptures, objects, and the surrounding world observe sensory and formal properties of art with your child.
- Provide opportunities for your child to learn about professional artists' work through books and visits to art museums, art shows, galleries, special exhibitions, street fairs, malls, etc. Have your child observe and discuss the artwork you see using art vocabulary, if possible.

MUSIC

- Listen with your child to a wide variety of music (classical, pop, country, jazz, rhythm & blues) and discuss the varied quality of the music.
- Provide opportunities for your child to go to a parade, musical performance, or festival and discuss how and why the music captures the audience's attention and creates a reaction.
- Regularly play an informal game of "Name That Tune" using either the radio or singing when driving in the car, traveling, or hanging around the home.
- With your child attend a concert and have your child name the various instruments.
- Challenge your child to focus on subtle musical differences in volume and tone.
- Challenge your child to improvise rhythms, melodies and songs.
- Encourage your child to join music groups.



VISUAL ARTS AND MUSIC

Washington State Grades K-10

Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs)

Students Will . . .

1. Understand and apply arts knowledge and skills
 - ♪ understand arts concepts and vocabulary.
 - ♪ develop arts skills and techniques.
 - ♪ understand the history and traditions of the arts in various cultures.
 - ♪ apply audience skills in a variety of arts settings and performances.
2. Demonstrate thinking skills using artistic processes
 - ♪ apply a creative process in the arts.
 - ♪ apply a performance process in the arts.
3. Communicate through the arts
 - ♪ use the arts to express and present ideas and feelings.
 - ♪ use the arts to communicate for a specific audience and purpose.
 - ♪ evaluate the effectiveness of art presentations of self and others using a responding process.
 - ♪ analyze dance, music, theatre, film, television, electronic media and visual arts encountered in daily life.
4. Make connections within and across the arts, to other disciplines, cultures, life, and work
 - ♪ demonstrate and analyze the connections among the arts disciplines.
 - ♪ demonstrate and analyze the connections between the arts and other content areas.
 - ♪ apply aesthetic criteria to personal and community decision-making.
 - ♪ understand the influence of the arts in shaping and reflecting cultures and history.
 - ♪ understand the influence and role of the arts in the world of work.



READING

Ways Parents Can Help

- 📖 Continue to read to your child and with your child as often as you can everyday. Ask questions and discuss what you are reading.
- 📖 Help your child to explore a wide range of fiction, including contemporary and historical fiction, as well as memoirs, classics, and poetry.
- 📖 Challenge your child to differentiate between fact and opinion in discussions. Encourage your child to explain his/her reasoning.
- 📖 With your child, explore a single topic in depth.
- 📖 Discuss with your child your reactions to different types of books.
- 📖 Provide opportunities for your child to be exposed to a wide range of reading materials such as magazines, schedules, directories, cookbooks, newspapers, brochures, and maps.
- 📖 With your child, discuss favorite books and authors and decide why you like them. Help your child learn more about his/her favorite authors through the use of videos, books, or magazine articles.
- 📖 Encourage your older children to read to younger siblings.
- 📖 Help your child to examine a wide range of nonfiction including policies, public documents (contracts, warranties, guaranties) consumer reports, trade publications and research papers.
- 📖 If your child makes a mistake while reading aloud, allow time for self-correction and then gently explain and correct mistakes.
- 📖 Remember when a child is reading, if he/she stumbles over five or more words on a page, the book may be too hard to read alone.
- 📖 Reinforce the importance of reading by letting your child see you and other members of the family enjoy reading on a regular basis.
- 📖 Use school assignments or casual questions from your child as an opportunity to have your child use his/her skills needed to look up new and necessary information.
- 📖 Encourage your child to vary pace, intonation and expression when reading out loud.
- 📖 Discuss issues and values from various perspectives as presented in a variety of written materials.



WRITING

We teach and assess the Six Traits of Writing in our classrooms.

The Traits are:

Ideas: Does the message make sense and are there details?

Organization: Is there a beginning and ending? Does the sequencing make sense?

Voice: Does the writing have personality and pizzazz? Does it show individuality?

Word Choice: Are words used correctly? Are new words attempted? Are lively verbs used?

Sentence Fluency: Do the sentences hang together? Do they have a rhythm and flow?

Conventions: Are capitals, punctuation, and readable spelling used? These should be appropriate to the child's developmental level; i.e., depending on whether she/he is a kindergartner or third grader.



WRITING

Washington State Grades K-10

Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs)

Students Will . . .

1. Write clearly and effectively
 - ✎ develop concept and design.
 - ✎ use style appropriate to the audience and purpose.
 - ✎ apply writing conventions.
2. Write in a variety of forms for different audiences and purposes
 - ✎ write for different audiences.
 - ✎ write for different purposes.
 - ✎ write in a variety of forms.
 - ✎ write for career applications.
3. Understand and use the steps of the writing process
 - ✎ pre-write: generate ideas and gather information.
 - ✎ draft: elaborate on a topic and supporting ideas.
 - ✎ revise: collect input and enhance text and style.
 - ✎ edit: use resources to correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, and usage.
 - ✎ publish: select a publishing form and produce a completed writing project to share with chosen audience.
4. Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of written work
 - ✎ assess own strengths and need for improvement.
 - ✎ seek and offer feedback.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Ways Parents Can Help



- ✎ Have your child participate in community sports programs. Walk, hike, climb, jog, bicycle or play active games (e.g., Frisbee, golf, tennis) with your child.
- ✎ Find activities to do with your child that practice catching, kicking and dribbling with proper technique, accuracy and force.
- ✎ Encourage your child to make a homemade obstacle course that requires strength, flexibility, and balance.
- ✎ Help your child to follow rules and safety procedures when participating in games and activities.
- ✎ Point out to your child how to deal with stress. Role-play with your child ways to resist peer pressure.
- ✎ Have your child identify foods that allow for healthy operation of heart and circulatory system and positive physical performance.
- ✎ Watch television with your child, and discuss commercials' "hidden" messages for health and fitness.
- ✎ Use pictures or photos of adolescent youth, and discuss with your child the physical development differences. Also discuss what the pictures may show about the social and emotional changes of adolescence.
- ✎ Bring other parents and children together in game-like situations, to develop appropriate communication skills in your child.
- ✎ Select an area of fitness you and your child would like to improve or maintain. Chart and record the results.



HEALTH AND FITNESS

Washington State Grades K-10

Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs)














Students Will . . .

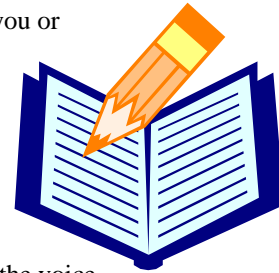
1. Acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain an active life-- movement, physical fitness, and nutrition
 - Y develop fundamental physical skills and progress to complex movement activities as physically able.
 - Y incorporate rules and safety procedures into physical activities.
 - Y understand the concepts of physical fitness and develop and monitor progress on personal fitness goals.
 - Y understand nutrition and food nutrients and how they affect physical performance and the body.
2. Acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain a healthy life
 - Y recognize patterns of growth and development, reduce health risks, and live safely.
 - Y understand the transmission and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.
 - Y acquire skills to live safely.
3. Analyze and evaluate the impact of real-life influences on health
 - Y understand how environmental factors affect one's health.
 - Y gather and analyze health information.
 - Y use social skills to protect health and safety in a variety of situations.
 - Y understand how emotions affect decision-making.
4. Analyze health and safety information to develop health and fitness plans based on life goals
 - Y assess needs and resources.
 - Y develop a health and fitness plan and a monitoring system.



WRITING


Ways Parents Can Help

-  Encourage your child to write for different purposes such as grocery lists, thank you notes, etc. and praise his/her work. In sixth grade there is an emphasis on reading and writing clear narrative and expository text.
-  Work with your child to keep together a special topic notebook to list items that are important and interesting to your child for writing ideas.
-  Encourage writing by letting your child see you write regularly with enjoyment and for communication with others.
-  Make a collection of your child's favorite writings in a folder or book and read them together regularly to encourage more writing.
-  Provide different types of literature for your child such as tragedies, comedies, classics, memoirs, historical novels, biographies, atlases, mysteries, and other books that interest your child and family. Let your child freely explore these books.
-  Provide a dictionary and thesaurus for your child to check spelling and look up new words for writing.
-  Share different kinds of writing pieces with your child such as newspaper articles, business letters, public documents, warranties, how-to manuals, promotional materials, consumer reports, short stories, etc.
-  Challenge your child to write a persuasive letter to you or another person to explain why he/she needs a particular item or believes something should be changed.
-  Have your child write a review of a movie or play.
-  Discuss with your child his/her writing; such as, what he/she likes or dislikes about it and how he/she can improve the writing piece. Talk about its effectiveness (the word choice in an advertisement, the voice of a letter, the details in a news article). Expect to see your child's prewriting, drafting, revising and editing final drafts.
-  Provide highlighting pens, scissors, and glue or tape to encourage your child to revise his/her work. This will help your child add, delete, cut apart, and rearrange his/her ideas to achieve clearer, more complete and focused writing.
-  Discuss with your child a piece of writing and what you both liked and disliked about it. Such writings could be stories, letters, and books you have read together.
-  In your child's writings, you should always look for what is written well; encourage your child to write by praising his/her writing. At this age, children should seek criticism as a means to improve their own writing.



MATHEMATICS

Washington State Grades K-10
Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs)
Students Will . . .

Number Sense	Measurement	Geometric Sense
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare and order fractions, decimals and integers Represent multiplication and division of fractions and decimals Identify, write, represent and solve problems with ratios and percents Translate among the fraction, decimal and percent representations of a number Apply estimation or mental computation strategies Locate positive and negative integers on a number line or in a list 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solve problems involving the relationships among radius, diameter and circumference of a circle Determine the circumference and area of circles Determine the perimeter and area of triangles, rectangles, parallelograms and trapezoids Explain why area formulas make sense Identify pairs of angles and determine missing angle measurements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw quadrilaterals and triangles from given information about sides and angles
Probability and Statistics	Algebraic Sense	Reason and Problem Solve Mathematically
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw a first quadrant graph on the coordinate plane to represent information in a table or contextual situation Determine the experimental probability on an event using data collected in the experiment Determine the theoretical probability of an event and its complement Represent probability as a fraction, decimal or percent Extract information from graphs from data or on graphs to draw conclusions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate expressions when the value for each variable is given Express relationships between quantities using $=$, \neq, $>$, $<$, \leq or \geq Use or solve for variables in a given situation involving one or two steps Apply properties and use the order of operations to evaluate expressions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate situations Formulate questions & define problem Construct solutions 
Use Mathematical Reasoning	Communicate Knowledge & Understanding of Mathematical Language	Computation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze information Predict results, make inferences & conjectures based on situation analysis Draw conclusions & verify results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather information Organize and interpret information Represent and share information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluently multiply and divide fractions and decimals

SOCIAL STUDIES

Ways Parents Can Help

- Using maps or globes, challenge your child to compare and contrast population density, landforms, and bodies of water around the world.
- Provide opportunities for your child to visit local cultural centers representing various cultures. Have your child use the library or local paper to find geographic information relating to our trade partners.
- Encourage your child to make a family map (with your help) showing where relatives live. Have your child specify longitude and latitude and the relative time difference for those relatives living away from the Seattle area.
- Provide opportunities for your child to visit older relatives. Encourage him/her to ask about life when grandparents were the same age and what they remember about major events in history in their lives.
- Discuss with your child how citizenship rights change with different governments.
- Have your child look where toys and clothes articles at school and home are made to discuss the relationships to world economies.
- Encourage your child to create a map of important places in your community such as schools, parks, grocery stores, libraries, and other places of interest. Your child might like to give the map to a family new to the neighborhood or to your public library to keep available for newcomers.



SOCIAL STUDIES

Washington State Grades K-10 Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs)

Students Will . . .

1. Understand the major concepts of Geography
 - ♦ use maps, charts, and other geographic tools to understand the spatial arrangement of people, places, resources, and environments on Earth's surface.
 - ♦ understand the physical and human characteristics of places and regions.
 - ♦ observe and analyze the interaction between people, environment, and culture.
2. Understand major ideas in History
 - ♦ examine and understand major ideas, themes and cause and effect relationships in the U.S., World, and Washington State.
 - ♦ investigate, compare and contrast interpretations of historical events.
 - ♦ understand the origin and impact of ideas and technological developments on history and social change.
3. Understand the basic principles of Civics
 - ♦ understand and explain the core values of democracy as set forth in documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.
 - ♦ analyze the purpose of government and laws.
 - ♦ understand the purpose and organization of international relationships and how U.S. policy is made.
 - ♦ understand the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and democratic involvement.
4. Understand the basic concepts of Economics
 - ♦ understand and analyze the effect of economic systems on individuals, groups, and society.



MATHEMATICS

Ways Parents Can Help

- ☞ Provide consistent math fact practice with +, -, x, and ÷.
- ☞ Have your child use a shopping catalogue and go with your child on a pretend shopping spree. Pretend you have \$5,000.00 to spend and select items that will total as close to \$5,000.00 as possible. Extend the experience by making requests like: Find the total with a 30% discount. Find the total if everything was offered at 1/2 price. Include tax and shipping costs.
- ☞ Find ways to help your child practice basic facts including dividing various numbers by 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10.
- ☞ Let your child plan meals and cook with you, focusing on measuring foods and how foods and liquids change. Cooking together can help practice fractions by trying to make half a recipe or by doubling the recipe.
- ☞ When dining out challenge your child to estimate and then to calculate the cost of each person's meal including the tax and tip. Then discuss how accurate the estimate was to the actual bill.
- ☞ Help your child to search for various geometric shapes and patterns in their surroundings.
- ☞ Regularly read math books with your child such as *Stacey the Math Wiz*, by Ann M. Martin and *The Case of the Shrunken Allowance*, by Joanne Rockin.
- ☞ Provide rulers, tape measures, scales, cups, pints, quarts, and liters for your child and challenge your child to find ways to use the tools around the house.
- ☞ Find a graph in a newspaper, magazine, or on the Internet. Have your child answer questions by looking at the graph; such as, "What item on the graph is most used?" "What does this tell you?" "How does this information compare to other information in the article?"
- ☞ With your child, make a shopping list. Check the grocery store ads together and estimate the cost of your shopping list. Go shopping and then compare and contrast your estimate with the actual cost of the groceries. Discuss the results.
- ☞ Regularly play strategy math games with your child such as chess, checkers, Master Mind®, or Othello®.
- ☞ Discuss the contributions of men and women in the area of mathematics.
- ☞ Provide for your child true-to-life situations for using problem-solving strategies, such as comparing gas mileage on the freeway with gas mileage on a trip to the store two blocks away from home. Ask and listen to your child explain how they would go about solving the problem. Ask questions like, "What do you have to figure out?" "How will you get started?" "What do you already know?" Have your child predict outcomes and results.
- ☞ Challenge your child to compute a local baseball player's batting average using the number of hits and the number of times at bat they have. Have your child compare and contrast this information with another player's average.
- ☞ Encourage your child to use a variety of strategies to solve problems. Include estimation, mental math, pencil and paper, use of drawings or models, calculator and computer resources as appropriate.

For additional resources: www.psd401.net/math

SCIENCE

Washington State Grades K-10 Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs)

Students Will . . .

1. Know and apply scientific concepts and principles to understand the properties, structures, and changes in physical, earth/space, and living systems
 - ✓ understand how properties are used to identify, describe, and categorize substances, materials, and objects and how characteristics are used to categorize living things.
 - ✓ understand how components, structures, organizations, and interconnections describe systems.
 - ✓ understand how interactions within and among systems cause changes in matter and energy.
2. Know and apply the skills, processes, and nature of scientific inquiry
 - ✓ develop the knowledge and skills necessary to do scientific inquiry.
 - ✓ understand the nature of scientific inquiry.
3. Know and apply science concepts and skills to develop solutions to human problems in societal contexts
 - ✓ apply knowledge and skills of science and technology to design solutions to human problems or meet challenges.
 - ✓ analyze how science and technology are human endeavors, interrelated to each other, society, the workplace, and the environment.



SCIENCE

Ways Parents Can Help

- ☛ Visit the ocean and discuss how the moon affects tidal flow.
- ☛ Observe the moon together over a one to two month period. Draw the moon after each observation. Look for patterns over time.
- ☛ Explore classification systems in use at the grocery store, auto parts store, library, etc.
- ☛ Watch the news together, and discuss local environmental issues. What are the opposing views? What environmental changes will occur? What solutions are possible?
- ☛ Encourage your child to pose questions and allow them to answer these questions through research, reading, or experimentation. Help your child to record his/her observations or information and evaluate his/her conclusions. You might ask the question, “How do salmon survive in both salt and fresh water?” Research may include a visit to a hatchery.
- ☛ Design an experiment that compares the amount of water used in an average shower to that used in an average bath. Draw conclusions about which method uses the least amount.
- ☛ Talk to your child about how you use science in your daily life, such as when voting on environmental issues, planting a garden, or using a weather report.
- ☛ Read and discuss with your child stories and biographies of famous scientists and inventors like Edison, Orville and Wilbur Wright, Da Vinci, and Franklin. Discuss the contributions of men and women in scientific developments.

