

## March Madness with Mrs. Fasano

Most of you know that Mrs. Fasano is a huge Florida Gators fan, having gone to the University of Florida. However, I'm a big sports fan as well! By the time this March Madness Project is done you will be a big fan too! March Madness is the term used to describe the annual NCAA Men's College Basketball Tournament. We will be researching, tracking, and being actively involved in the tournament as a class and individually.

There are 4 things you will be graded on:

1. Your school cards (3)
2. Your bracket sheet (kept up-to-date)
3. Your presentation of each of your 3 schools
4. Your attitude and participation during other activities

Due dates and details for each are given below or on the attached grading rubrics.

**Monday, March 18** – You will be given a bracket sheet, cards to fill out/complete, and you will be assigned your schools. You will be given the chance to meet and connect with others that will eventually be competing against your school in the tournament. The cards are an IN-class and homework part of the project – which means you must bring the materials EVERY day.

**NOTE:** If you misplace the bracket sheet you are given, you can print off another one from the class website on Weebly under the Science/Social Studies tab or from CANVAS.

**Tuesday, March 19 – Wednesday, March 20** – Called the “First Four”, these are the eight teams that play against one another to get a spot in the official round of 64 teams in the tournament. Your bracket sheet will be due on Wednesday morning at 8AM. You must have the two winners from the first round circled in blue pen on your bracket sheet in the proper places for the Second Round as demonstrated in class. Your 3 assigned teams must be highlighted in YELLOW... This is worth 7 points. Then your bracket sheet will be due again on Thursday morning at 8AM. You must have the other two winners from the first round circled in blue pen on your bracket sheet in the proper places for the Second Round as demonstrated in class. This is worth 11 points. Research of schools and completion of index cards will continue.

**Thursday, March 21 – Friday, March 22** – First Round: Sixty-four teams compete. The winners move on to the next round. Since we will be out for Spring Break during this round, you will need to continue to track the winners in **pencil** and **blue** pen on your bracket sheet as demonstrated in class. The bracket sheet will be turned in on Monday, April 1st at 8AM.

**SPRING BREAK!** Please be sure to follow the tournament throughout Spring Break. You will need to be filling out your bracket sheet as the tournament continues. You can find this information by watching the games on TV, finding the scores on the nightly news during the sports segment, looking on the internet (ncaa.com, espn.com, etc.), listening to the radio, checking a sports score app on your parent's phone or on an tablet, or in the sports section of the newspaper. Be sure to plan and practice the presentation of the 3 teams you are responsible for since presentations will begin on Wednesday, April 3rd.

**Saturday, March 23 – Sunday, March 24** – Second Round: Thirty-two teams compete. The winners move on to the next round. Continue to track the winners in **pencil** and **blue** pen on your bracket sheet as demonstrated in class. The bracket sheet will be turned in on Monday, April 1 at 8AM.

**Thursday, March 28 – Friday, March 29** – Sweet Sixteen: The winners move on to the next round. Continue to track the winners in **pencil** and **blue** pen on your bracket sheet as demonstrated in class. The bracket sheet will be turned in on Monday, April 1 at 8AM.

**Saturday, March 30 – Sunday, March 31** – Elite Eight: The winners move on to the next round. Continue to track the winners in **pencil** and **blue** pen on your bracket sheet as demonstrated in class. The bracket sheet will be turned in on Monday, April 1 at 8AM.

**Monday, April 1** – Your bracket sheet is **DUE** through the completion of the Elite Eight games (when there are 4 teams *remaining*). The winners are written on the new bracket sheet lines as demonstrated in class. Your 3 teams must be highlighted in **YELLOW** on the bracket sheet... We will spend the week researching our schools. School index cards are due to Mrs. Fasano by **2PM** on **Friday, April 5**. **No** late cards will be accepted, so be sure to work on them diligently in class – cards may **NOT** go home for the weekend so please don't ask! **EVERYONE** is to turn in their school cards with the identified information written on them by the end of the day. You will have time during class to ask any questions you may have before turning them in, but come to school with all of your information so that you can write it on the cards after I answer any questions you have.

**Saturday, April 6** – Final Four (National Semifinals): The winners move on to the final game – the National Championship. Fill in the winners in **pencil** and **blue** pen on your bracket sheet as demonstrated in class. The bracket sheet will be turned in on Monday, April 8 at 8AM.

**Monday, April 8** – Your bracket sheet is **DUE** through the completion of the Final Four games (when there are 2 teams *remaining*). The winners are written on the new bracket sheet lines as demonstrated in class. Your bracket sheet will be returned to you for the fill-in of the winner of the National Championship game. The National Championship game will be played tonight... I wonder who will win?

**Monday, April 8 – Friday, April 12** – Presentations of schools. Make a plan for how you are going to present your information – what will you *share* about your school? You will need to figure out what you're going to say about your schools as well as how you will be dressing up.

**Tuesday, April 9** – Your completed bracket sheet is **DUE**. You will need to have your bracket sheet filled out completely and accurately through to the winner of the National Championship.

**Friday, April 12** – This is the final day for anything related to this project. All presentations will be completed!

## March Madness Grading Rubric

School Cards	<p>You need to complete your own card for EACH of the 3 schools you are assigned. Make sure you follow the specific instructions given as to what is required on each card. This is what needs to be included on your cards:</p> <p><u>On the FRONT of the card:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Find out the “colors” for your team. Use colored pencil or crayon to create about a 0.5 cm borders (for each color) around the index card to show these colors. Neatness and solid lines are expected (hint: use a ruler). The name of your school will already be on the card when it is given to you. It is the same name that is written on the Bracket Sheet.</li> </ul> <p><u>On the BACK of the card:</u> <i>(Write the titles for the information!)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Put your first name, last name in the upper right hand corner and your number in the upper left corner of your card.</li> <li>* <b>School Name:</b> It must be the official one. I suggest you go to the school’s official website and see what it says for this. Almost all schools have the word “university” or “college” in their official name.</li> <li>* <b>School Tournament Region and Ranking:</b> Use either the bracket sheet or online for information.</li> <li>* <b>School Location:</b> In what city and state can we find your school? Proper spelling and punctuation count!</li> <li>* <b>Year Established:</b> In what year was the school considered “founded”?</li> <li>* <b>School Mascot:</b> This may not be an animal. You must know what the mascot is and be able to <i>explain</i> it to us. For example, don’t write “Boilermakers” and not know what that is or how it came to be. I will ask if you don’t tell us and I know them, so no faking will be possible. Always verify with the school’s website for help. You should definitely include the mascot’s name if he/it has been given one by the school/students.</li> <li>* <b>School Population:</b> How many students attend your school? Always verify by going to your school’s website (most accurate numbers). If a total population is not given, just add the undergraduate and graduate students together to get your total.</li> <li>* <b>Conference:</b> In what conference in the NCAA does your school’s athletic teams play? For example, the Florida Gators play in the Southeastern Conference (SEC). Include the abbreviation as well.</li> <li>* <b>Basketball Coach:</b> What is the name of your men’s basketball coach?</li> </ul>
Presentations	<p>You will need to be able to teach the class about <b>each</b> of your 3 schools, which means some of the information on your cards should be memorized. But don’t sound like a robot! You need to work on what you will tell us about the school without reading off the back and you need to figure out how you will “dress the part.” You can dress up as the mascot, in the school’s colors, as an athlete or cheerleader for that school, or as someone famous who attended the school (but that would need to be mentioned in your presentation). Great presentations <b>include an interesting story about your school</b> that we could say, “Oh, that’s cool!” I will have your cards in my hand when you present so expect to stand in front of us with nothing. Treat this like a storytelling event or school recruitment – make us interested in attending your school! Read over the rubric to know which information to practice and present.</p>
Bracket	<p>You will be given a bracket sheet at the start of the project and you need to make sure to keep track of it the entire time. It is your responsibility to keep up with your bracket sheet and follow the tournament. You can find this information by watching the games on TV, finding the scores on the nightly news during the sports segment, looking on the internet, listening to the radio, checking a sports score app on your parent’s phone or tablet, or in the sports section of the newspaper. This can be done at home, at the library, a friend’s house, or - in special circumstances - at school. Your parent can help you by showing you which teams have won, <b>BUT</b> the writing of the names <b>MUST</b> be in your own handwriting.</p>
Attitude & Participation	<p>Each student is required to follow the tournament with their bracket sheet and present the schools’ information. You will be given a participation grade for working on the project, as well as working together with other students. Additional activities developed by the NCAA to introduce the sport to students will be assigned. If you keep a positive attitude and work hard, it will reflect in your work.</p>