**St. Jude Epic Challenge**

You will partner up with a classmate or work on your own to create an original invention/idea to help raise $300 for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

**Step 1: Research**

You should be able to answer the following questions regarding St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital:

* What is St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital? What do they do there?
* When did it open?
* Who opened St. Jude? Who benefits from its services?
* Where is St. Jude?
* Why does St. Jude exist? What is its purpose?
* How does St. Jude operate? How do they get funding?

Questions to ponder:

* What if you were a patient at St. Jude?
* What’s next? What can you do?

Here are some resources to help you with your research:

[St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](https://www.stjude.org/get-involved/school-fundraising-ideas/epic-challenge/resources.html) (Scroll through this page to learn more)

[Tour St. Jude](https://www.stjude.org/about-st-jude/visit/tours.html) (Take the virtual tour to learn more)

Create a Zine that you would give to potential patients of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital to inform them. (See separate instructions for zine)

**Step 2: Ask/Brainstorm/ Imagine**

Individually or with your partner/group, think through the needs and challenges of St. Jude patients, families, doctors, and researchers. What might help make their lives easier? What problems do you see? What are some possible solutions to these problems?

Make a list on the notebook paper provided:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Challenges/Needs** | **Possible solutions** |
| Ex. Kids with cancer sometimes lose their hair when they go through treatments | A confidence cloak covered with nice sayings to make them feel better |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Step 3 – Plan/Blueprint**

Which of the ideas that you brainstormed is your favorite? Make a sketch of your idea on the blank paper provided. Don’t forget to add details. Label any parts as needed. What supplies will you need? List them. Assign jobs is necessary.

**Step 4 – Create/My Invention**

Your favorite part. Now it is time to BUILD!! Using the supplies provided, begin building a model/prototype of your idea.

**What is your invention called?**

**What did you use to create your invention?**

**How does the invention work?**

**Step 5 – Test/Improve**

Talk to your family about what we are creating at school. Talk to other classmates. Ask for ideas and let them know any problems you are running in to. See if they can offer any solutions. “What do you think of my idea? What can I add to make it better?

Tell me: Who did you talk to? What were the results of the conversation? What improvements can you make?

**Step 6 – Present/EPIC Convention**

Now, you get to share your idea with family, friends, and classmates. Remember to share with family and friends and encourage them to donate to support your invention. This is a great way for us to help raise money for St. Jude.

We will have a St. Jude EPIC challenge convention. You will get to share your inventions/idea with an audience. Prepare by practicing what you will say, use notecards.

Dear Family and Friends,

I am excited to announce that we are participating in the **St. Jude Epic Challenge**, an educational fundraising program that brings kids together to solve real world problems. St. Jude’s mission is “…to advance cures, and means of prevention, for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment…”

**Here’s what we are doing:**

Students are working through the engineering design process to develop an invention or idea that would improve the quality of life for kids like those at St. Jude. The process includes research, brainstorming, design, create, and present. After creating a well thought plan and prototype, students will present their ideas to the class. I will also document by taking photos of their projects. The entire process will be conducted during SPOTLIGHT. We plan to “build” our prototype the week of October 5th. You can even help “fund” these inventions/ideas by donating through our ONLINE fundraising page. NO MONEY comes to the school.

By scanning the QR code, you will be taken to our fundraising page. You will be prompted to create a project or donate to a project. Unfortunately, I am unable to create a project for every student. However, you can create a page for your child’s project he/she will be working on. You can then share a link with family and friends to help raise money for St. Jude. If you do not wish to create a page but would like to donate to the fundraiser, you can choose to donate to another team member. Our class goal is $300. Any donations will go directly to St. Jude. NO MONEY will be turned in to Hernando Hills.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email at stephanie.sartain@dcsms.org.

Thank you for supporting Gifted education and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Sartain