

Science Fair Materials



TO THE
PARENTS:

HOW TO
USE
THIS
BOOKLET

Welcome to the science fair! Through participation in our fair this year, your child can learn about science and experiments. I hope that you find this project fun, interesting, and rewarding.

Read through these materials with your child. The first decision you must make is whether to participate in our school fair. Most of the project will be done at home by you and your child. Basic information will be provided at school.

Along with a list of ideas, this booklet provides an explanation of basic vocabulary and the steps in the scientific process. You will also find a copy of a display, which is part of a completed project. This is included only as a guide.

Students need to provide their own card table on the day of the Science Fair.

Display boards are usually available at teacher's stores, craft stores, or business supply stores.

You must complete the Science Fair Project Registration Form in order to participate. This form tells us what your project will be about. You don't have to be started on your project to register. Please return this form by the requested date.

Good luck and have fun!

How can I help my child with a project?

1. Designing a science fair project is for any curious, interested child.
2. Be positive.
3. The project goals are to use and strengthen basic problem-solving skills. Your child may need guidance and encouragement. You may not know all the answers to questions that come up. Contact the science fair coordinator(s).
4. The basic science skills your child will use to complete this project are:
 - Asking a question and finding an answer (research)
 - Organization
 - Experimenting
 - Measuring
 - Writing the results or new knowledge, (What do you know now that you didn't before?)
 - Reporting or presenting to others
5. Stick to a schedule. Use the plan that is included to keep track of progress. A project may take between 4-8 weeks, depending on how difficult the question is.
6. Help your child with things like photography, construction, or tasks where safety is important. Your child should be able to print, draw, color, make a graph, or use a computer to complete the written report. Craft and scrap-booking stores offer die-cut machines to punch out letters or sell stick on letters.
7. Hands-on activities are the best way for your child to understand. It might get messy, but your child will enjoy mixing, growing plants or building objects. Use items that you can easily obtain.
8. Consider the cost as you select a topic. How difficult will it be to get the materials?
9. Allow plenty of time for thinking and exploring. Help your child stay relaxed. Be a good listener and learn along with your child. Be careful not to do for your child many things her or she can do for him/herself.
10. Check the project for neatness, good grammar, spelling and accuracy.
11. For the oral presentation, help your child practice, practice, practice @
 - Introducing him/herself
 - Telling about the project
 - Showing and explaining their display (pictures, graphs, written work)
 - Speaking loudly and clearly, and using eye contact
12. Your child's enthusiasm for his/her project is contagious. Whether telling classmates, friends, or a science fair judge about the project, showing excitement and interest in their project is important.

required for
3-5 grade

Kindergarten - Grade 2 Ideas

In grades K-2, student projects should illustrate, report, or model a science concept or subject area. At this level, students can choose from four categories.

Pick a category first:

- Model
- Collection
- Demonstration - explains how something works, or why something happens the way it does.
- Experiment - answers a question or solves a problem. If you choose an experiment be sure to follow the scientific method.

Examples of models are:

ant farm human eye human brain rockets
parts of a plant solar system bird beaks and their functions
types of human joints parts of an airplane

Examples of collections are:

Seeds shells rocks minerals fossils insects
Animal tracks soils leaves bugs sand fish

Examples of demonstrations are:

How a bicycle works how we get drinking water the rock cycle
How simple machines work how bread rises life cycle of a butterfly

Examples of an experiment are: (phrase title in the form of a question)

How does light affect bean growth? Which color fades the fastest?
Does color affect taste? Which gum blows the biggest bubble?
Does a more expensive battery last longer? Which bread molds faster?

All students should be able to explain their projects orally. Remember, you'll have a display to show any helpful information.