



SCIENCE FAIR

SPRING 2012

The Science Fair is in the evening on Tuesday, March 22 which coincides with Open House. The Science Fair will give students an opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have gained in class on an independent project. Students will first choose an area of study from those provided on the Requirements Sheet. Next, students will choose a project. **On the night of Open House, students will be presenting their projects.**

This project is to be done **by the student**, with minimal adult assistance.

The science curriculum includes teaching the skills needed to successfully complete a science fair project. Your child has had experience in class with assignments similar to those included on the *Requirements sheet*. It is now time for each student to work on his/her own.

Sixth grade is the first year where students are required to design an experiment to test a hypothesis, collect data, and draw conclusions. While this is not a family project, parental guidance is appropriate. Students will need assistance acquiring the materials necessary for the project. Some students may need help organizing themselves and scheduling time so they do not leave anything for the last minute. Helping students find reference materials may be necessary. Sources should be comprehensible at the student's grade level. Students may seek adult advice to proofread written work, however, all wording must come from the students. Plagiarism is obviously not allowed. All sources must be acknowledged. **Please assist/monitor students when they use sharp tools, hot water, fire, or chemicals.**

This is an exciting time in the science curriculum. This event is a valuable learning experience for project participants and visitors alike.

Sincerely,

Dan Gordon,
Science Specialist

SCIENCE FAIR REQUIREMENTS

1. Suggested list:

- Electricity and Magnetism
- Human physiology
- Monera
- Protists
- Plants
- Earth Science
- Weather
- Astronomy
- Animals
- Energy (Light, Sound, Heat, Mechanical or any other form of energy)

All projects will require the approval from the science teacher. Students should pace themselves. This is not a project that can be completed at the last minute. Due dates for parts of the project have been given to help students schedule their work.

2. **Project Research:**

Research is the process of collecting information. Do use many references from printed sources (books, journals, magazines and newspapers) as well as electronic sources (computer software and on-line services). The students can also gather information from professionals (instructors, librarians, etc.). A minimum of three sources are required for 6th grade. Sources **must be documented**.

3. **The project report:**

The science fair project report should include the following headings:

- Title page
- Table of contents
- Introduction to the topic, background knowledge about the topic
- Purpose/Aim
- Hypothesis
- Materials list
- Drawings or photos of the work to show the process
- Procedure
- Data, graphs, charts
- Results
- Conclusion
- Bibliography

Type each of the above headings with a description/explanation on separate piece of paper. Print two copies; one for the teacher and one for the display. A sample project report is available from the science teacher upon request.

4. Journal

It is very important that students keep a journal. Every step of the way, students shall keep a journal in which to record the progress of the project. It reflects the time a student spends searching for answers to questions generated by the chosen project. Difficulties and trouble shooting strategies should be included. After the project has been completed, the journal will be useful when the report is being written. Every entry in the journal should be neat and dated. **The journal must be written in a bound notebook with lined or graphed paper.**

5. Display

The science fair display represents all the work the students have done. It should consist of a backboard, the project report and anything that represents the project, such as models, items studied, photos, surveys, graphs, table, etc... It should be free standing and self-explanatory. Example:



6. Model

In certain projects a model might be appropriate addition to your child's display.

7. Evaluation

The report, journal, display and presentation will each be evaluated.

8. Science Fair Night

The project will be displayed during Open House. The report and journal will be part of the display. Students shall come to the Science Fair at the beginning of Open House to stand with their project and demonstrate and explain to all visitors. Students are responsible for packing up projects and cleaning up their area when the Fair ends.

You are welcome to visit **Dan Gordon, the science teacher**, if you need help or if you have questions. Dan is around Monday through Thursday or he can be reached at Dan@tebh.org and 310 409-4645.