

Fort Washington Elementary School

8th Annual Science Fair

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

RULES AND INFORMATION

Project Types:

Students may enter any of the following project types. They will all be exhibited on tables during the day and evening of the science fair.

1. A CLASSROOM, TEAM, CLUB, SINGLE STUDENT or GROUP SCIENCE PROJECT may be entered.
2. AN INVENTION is something new that will solve a problem, make a task easier, or find a new way to do an everyday task.
3. AN EXPERIMENT solves a problem or answers a question. Decide what the problem is (define the problem), decide what you think the answer to the problem might be (state a hypothesis), set up an experiment to see whether your hypothesis is correct, run the experiment, write down the results, and present your results in a display.
4. A MODEL can be either a homemade model or a purchased kit.
Example: a model of the solar system
5. A COLLECTION of something related to science may be entered. To protect items in your collection from being misplaced or broken, secure them firmly in a container or box.
Examples: a butterfly collection, a rock collection, a collection of different types of leaves
6. A DISPLAY may be entered. This would involve choosing a topic, collecting information, writing down what you have learned, and making a display. Suggested ways to collect information include: library research, museum trips, Internet research.
Example: a display showing how dinosaur fossils are found and excavated.

Rules for Science Fair Displays:

1. Students should design and make their own grade level appropriate exhibits.
2. All entries should include the student's name, class and information about the project. Also, please add a Project Title when submitting the form to your teacher.
3. Exhibits should be designed to rest on a table and should take up no more than 48 inches by 15 inches. Please, no floor projects or wall posters. Trifold boards may be purchased from outside retailers.
4. Exhibits must follow these safety regulations:
 - a. No OPEN containers of liquids are allowed.
 - b. No working volcanoes will be permitted.
 - c. Protect all moving parts of exhibits; make sure that your exhibit is safe.
 - d. If your exhibit uses electricity, keep in mind that:
 - i. Only ordinary household current (120 volt A.C.) will be provided. You must bring an extension cord.
 - ii. Your exhibit must have a convenient on/off switch.
 - iii. All electrical circuits and equipment must be properly insulated.
5. Anything that could be dangerous to the public is prohibited.
 - a. No living organisms, except plants.
 - b. No mold, fungus or microbial cultures.
 - c. No flame producing equipment, dangerous chemicals, acids, or caustic materials.

IDEA: If you would like to make a working volcano or study microbial cultures, you could exhibit your project in the form of photographs on a display board. If your parents approve of conducting the project at home, you have the option of creating a safe public display in this way.

All exhibits at the Science Fair are entered at the risk of the exhibitor. Remember that the Science Fair is a hands-on experience. Do NOT display anything valuable. If a parent would like to volunteer to monitor the display the day of the fair, please contact one of the chair people.

How to Enter the Science Fair:

1. Choose a topic.
2. Return the entry form to school by Friday, February 16, 2018 (Online entry form: <http://bit.ly/2DKvua5>)
3. Prepare your project
4. Bring your project to the gym on the morning of the fair, Wednesday, March 7
5. Visit the Science Fair with your family from 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. that evening.
6. Bring your project home at the end of the science fair.

Getting Started:

There are many good sources of project ideas and information. Think about what technology is involved in your hobbies and interests, or about the science used in your own homes, garages and gardens. Talk to your parents, teachers, brothers, sisters and friends. See what problems you might solve with a new invention or learn about something that has always seemed interesting to you. Observe your pets, look out the window, think about why animals do what they do, and how things work. These are all good sources of project ideas.

Your school and township libraries have plenty of good information. There are also many sources of information on the Internet. Here are a few sites; you can surely find even more.

Science Bob	www.sciencebob.com
Science Buddies	www.sciencebuddies.org
The Science Club	www.halcyon.com/sciclub/kidproj1.html

Remember, the best projects are those that reflect your interests. Be sure to spend enough time thinking about your topic. It is very important that you come up with a good question to attempt to answer. This will make it interesting to you, and to the people who come to see your exhibit. Projects that you find in a book or on a website should be used more for helping you start thinking than for detailed instructions. By creating your own project, you have the opportunity to learn about something that is interesting to you rather than repeat a project that was interesting to someone else. The projects you find in books are also sometimes too complex for elementary school students. The science fair is not a competitive event with judges or grades. This is an opportunity to have fun with something of your own choosing. Relax, let your minds wander a bit, and enjoy learning. We'll look forward to seeing all the wonderful projects you create!

The Passport Activity (to take place on the evening of the Science Fair only):

On the evening of the Science Fair, those interested will be given a passport. There will be an activity sheet with questions on it about some of the projects. During the Fair, everyone will have the chance to read and observe the various projects. A stamp will be placed on the passport for each correct answer to the questions on the activity sheet. The goal is to obtain as many stamps on your passport as possible during the evening. **Turn in your passport to your teacher the next day for a homework pass!**

We are asking each Science Fair participant to write your own question about your project for the activity sheet. The answer should be found somewhere within your project, and should reflect something that you want other kids to learn by observing your project. In addition, we would like you to sign up for one 30-minute time slot (either 6:30-7:00 PM OR 7:00-7:30 PM) where you would stay with your project to talk about it, and stamp the passports with the stamp provided to you when your question is answered correctly by the other students. You will still have plenty of time to walk around and check out the other projects. You will be able to fill out your own passport as well!

Questions and Special Arrangements:

If you have any questions, or need any special help with your display, please contact the Science Fair Chair:

Jesse Conte: 215-628-3094, nittylion@yahoo.com or fwessciencefair@gmail.com