

**Science Fair Project**

Dear Parents and Students:

It’s time to start working on our school’s Science Fair! Enclosed you will find a timeline outlining due dates and important information regarding your child’s project. Ample time has been scheduled and tasks have been spread out so students can complete their projects at a reasonable pace.

This is a major project and will reflect a significant portion of your child’s grade for the next grading period(s). The primary objective of this science project is to have students approach a problem scientifically. This includes:

1. Asking questions and forming hypotheses
2. Creating experiments to test those hypotheses
3. Organizing data and drawing conclusions
4. Writing about scientific research

The project must be experimental in nature as opposed to research oriented. In other words, student must do a test, survey, or experiment to determine the answer to their question instead of just looking it up in a book or internet. We strongly encourage students to select topics that they genuinely interested in since they will be working on these projects for the next eight weeks.

Students will be working individually. These three tasks are outlined as follows:

1. **Log Book:** Record data and observations into a project notebook on a regular basis.
2. **Scientific Paper:** The scientific paper chronicles how the project evolved, how the research was done, the results, and the conclusion. This paper must be typed or word processed.
3. **Display:** This will include taking pictures or making sketches of the experimental process, gathering materials, building, and setting up the display for presentation and judging.

In order to do well on these tasks, all individuals must be engaged in the project from the beginning and not wait until the last minute. Please note the timeline for guidelines for pacing. Project guidelines state that all work be done by the students; however, assistance may be provided by teachers, parents, etc.

Please keep in mind that our school’s Science Fair is the first step to participating in the Regional/State Fair. Students who are placed first, second or third in the School Science Fair will be considered to further advance for the Regional/State fair.

We are looking forward to working with you to make this a valuable learning experience for your child. We appreciate your support on this important project.

**Science Fair Project Timeline**

This may be the first time the students have attempted a long range project so it is very important to prepare a timeline and stay organized. Science fair projects often require several weeks for completion. This timeline is created in an effort to assist the students with helping them plan for each project component. For that reason organization meetings will take place on Fridays as a weekly check to guide students’ progress. Don’t let a due date that is many weeks away, throw your planning off; there are many things to do. Here is a suggested timeline that provides ample time to complete all phases of the project.

**[ ] September 28, 2018 Research Plans Due**

 (receive feedback by 10-5-18)

[ ] Week of October 1st, 2018 Research topic/Background Research

[ ] Week of October 8th, 2018 Plan procedures/collect supplies

[ ] Weeks of October 8th & 15th, 2018 Conduct experiment and collect data

[ ] Week of October 22nd, 2018 Analyze results/complete research paper

[ ] Week of October 29th, 2018 Make Display

 **[ ] November 5, 2018 Projects Due to 3rd Grade Teachers**

[ ] November 7-17th, 2018 In-Classroom Judging