

# SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT INFORMATION

Dear Parents,

THE SCIENCE FAIR IS FAST APPROACHING. We wanted to send this information sheet home today to help answer any questions you or your child may have about the science fair. If this sheet does not answer your questions please do not hesitate to contact us via email at:

[cynthia\\_oneill@allenisd.org](mailto:cynthia_oneill@allenisd.org) or [michelle\\_phillips@allenisd.org](mailto:michelle_phillips@allenisd.org), or by calling (972) 396-3016.

## **Does my child have to do a Science Fair Project?**

Yes, all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders must complete a Science Fair Project this year. They all have to create a problem, a hypothesis, materials, procedure, observations, and a conclusion for their project. Fifth Graders are **not, however, required to make a science fair board or enter in the Science Fair Contest**. We do encourage all students to participate in the competition. All of the research and work for the project will already be completed due to this being a required assignment. The only extra work your child would have to do in order to enter in the science fair contest is to turn in their log book and a decorated science fair board.

## **When is the Science Fair Project due?**

If your child is not competing in the science fair, they will have already turned in each portion of the science project at the due dates mentioned below. They will not be required to turn in the project a second time. If your child is competing they need to bring their complete project to the multipurpose room by 9:00 am on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **Will the Science Fair Project be graded?**

Yes, The Science Fair Project will be worth a test grade in each student's science class. **All students are required** to complete a project for a **test grade**, but 5<sup>th</sup> graders are **not required to enter the contest**.

## **Are there due dates for individual parts of the Science Fair Projects?**

Yes, we will require that each portion of the Science Fair Project be completed by certain dates in order to assure that no one is waiting until the last minute to complete their project.

All the steps of the scientific method are to be written in the students log book and turned in by their due date. If they are not turned in by the due date they will be graded as late. The due dates are as follows:

Idea/Problem/Purpose- October 20<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)

Hypothesis and Materials List- November 1<sup>st</sup> (Tuesday)

Procedure- November 17<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)

Observations and any photos of project - January 5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)

Data Analysis, Conclusion and Reflection- January 10<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)

Completed Board and Log Book (for competition only)- January 18<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

**Will my child be able to complete the project at school? No, the science fair project will be completed entirely at home.** There are many resources you can use to find ideas for good projects. One resource that the students may use is [www.all-science-fair-projects.com](http://www.all-science-fair-projects.com). This site has a wide variety of ideas. Your child must let us know what their testable question/idea is by October 20<sup>th</sup> in their science class. If they have not turned in a typed copy of their testable Problem at that time it will be considered late and points will be deducted. We will return each portion of the project after recording each grade. If your child is creating a Science Fair Board for the competition please know that they will have to decorate the board at home. There will be not class time assigned for decorating or working on their project.

**How do we know how to complete a science fair project?** Follow the scientific method step to create your science fair project. Each 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grader has become an expert over the method during the past couple of weeks. They can refer back to their science journals to help them remember the steps and they may also refer to their science notebook for writing their conclusion. The district website also has information on the scientific process.

**How will we know the rules and expectations of the Science Fair?**

If you are entering your project in the competition you need to view the rules and expectations. You may view a copy of the science fair rules, example products, and display rules by visiting the Allen ISD Website. Please log on to [www.allenisd.org](http://www.allenisd.org), click on departments, learner services, curriculum and instruction, science, and then on the link that says elementary science fair information. You will then choose the appropriate packet to view, either K-3 or 4-6. If you do not have internet access and you would prefer a hard copy of the rules and regulations, please contact your child's science teacher. **Please read all of the rules and expectations very carefully so that your child's project is not disqualified.**

**Can my child work with a partner?** We do not allow students to work in partner groups of any size for their science project. In today's busy world it is very difficult for children to allocate enough time together to successfully complete their project. We have found in the past that when students work in groups, the project has to be divided into different parts and one child ends up doing more of the work load than the other. Since each child is receiving a test grade for their science fair project, it is in the best interest of the student that they each complete their own project independently.

