Nan Clayton Science Fair 2023

Thursday, January 19

Science Fair Information Packet – Kinder, 1st and 2nd Grade

Science is a Way of Thinking

Has your child ever wondered how something works? Take that question and… turn it into a science fair project! Creating a science fair project is a great way for children to explore their curious nature and share ideas with friends. Enjoy this chance to show your child that science is everywhere and in everything we do.

Science fair projects should be fun! Explore a simple idea involving something that excites your child. Children remember the most about a project that interests them and one in which they actively participate in all steps.

K-2 projects are non-competitive (not judged). All K-2 students will be awarded for their participation. Science fair participation is optional for kindergarten - 2nd Grade students, all students are encouraged to participate.

Science Fair Project Guidelines

K-2 science fair projects can be from the following categories:

Collection with Classification—a collection of items that are organized and labeled into groups according to their similarities and differences. Include a summary of what was learned. Example: This is my rock collection, this is how I organized it and why. This is what I learned about rocks…

Report/Exhibit — a written and pictorial report on a favorite scientific topic or model/display showing how or why something works the way it does. Examples: Who was Mary Anning and what did she do? How does a helicopter fly?

Experiment — using the scientific method to make a discovery; begin with asking a question and perform tests to find the answer. Example: I tested batteries to see which brand lasted the longest.

Choosing a Project

Start with a topic that interests your student. Anything can become a science fair project – including sports, art, cooking, building and music. Collections and exhibits are the best type of project for this age group. The Clayton Library and Austin Public Library have several books full of ideas. See the last page of this handout for project suggestions.

Scientific discoveries are made by people working together. Students should ask for help and advice from parents, teachers or neighbors.

Project Requirements

Every project must be displayed on a tri-fold board (see below).

Every project must involve background research on the project topic. References (books, websites, etc.) must be noted on the project board.

Any help the student received must be noted on the project board.

Your child should be prepared to share their project with their class.

Timeline

DECEMBER/JANUARY
Work on teacher-approved project

WEEK OF JANUARY 16
Projects due and presented in class. (Check with your teacher on specific date and time.)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19
NAN CLAYTON SCIENCE FAIR DAY
7:45 a.m.— Projects displayed
5:30 p.m.—Families view
6:45 p.m.—Science Fair Entertainment
7:45 p.m.—Take projects home!

Project Display

Submit project with pictures and words on a STURDY tri-fold display board, no larger than 36”x48”. These can be found at several stores including Target, Michaels and Dollar General. For display purposes, it must be able to stand on its own. Don't use a flat poster board. Purchase early as this is a popular time of year for science fair projects. **If you need help acquiring the project board or other items for your project, please ask your teacher.** Electrical projects may use batteries as a source of electricity.

For text, use a font that can be seen from 2 ½ feet away. Please have student name and teacher on the FRONT of the project board.

Photographs and diagrams are encouraged as a visual explanation of project steps and materials. Photographs or drawings should be used to depict the prohibited or discouraged items. Be sure to credit all photographers on the display board.

View a project board template at: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1fnoQhN155UBcnUbPwrt1vKCLrqo5Y6a506lOdZD5he4/edit#slide=id.g143471cf2ba_0_155. This template can be used for your project board. From the “File” menu choose “Make a copy” or “Download.” Fill in the template, then print the various parts for your project board.

Things to Avoid

All project boards must follow these guidelines: no organisms- living, dead or preserved, no human or animal food, (not even in sealed bags or containers), no water, liquids or chemicals, no dirt or sand, no sharp items or glass objects.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS, ITEMS, SUBJECTS NOT ALLOWED:

- Growing bacteria or mold of any type
- Firearms, explosives or discharge air pressure canister devices (i.e. potato guns)
- Causing pain, suffering, sickness, or death of an animal
- Breaking Local/State/Federal Law
- Production of ANY amount of consumable alcohol
- Any activity or substance that presents a danger to the student, other people or the environment, including hazardous chemicals or radioactive materials

Ready to be one of Clayton's scientists? Just fill this out and send it back to your teacher to start your fantastic journey into science.

Science Fair Proposal for K-2:

Proposal Due Date:
Name:
Teacher:
If you could learn about anything in the world, what would it be? What do you wonder about?
My project will be (circle one): Collection Experiment Report/Exhibit
Project Proposal:
My final project is due:
For teachers only Teacher Approval & Comments returned to student:

Sample Ideas for K-2 Projects

Collections/Reports/Exhibits:

- Collect and organize: leaves, rocks, shells, etc.
- Report on a favorite animal
- How do helicopters or airplanes fly?
- Make your own sunprint
- Build a simple electrical circuit
- Grow crystals
- Trees or wildlife in my neighborhood vs. a relative/friend's neighborhood
- How to make your own paper
- Report on a favorite inventor or invention
- Design your own house, car, school or playground
- Build a musical instrument out of recycled materials
- Make your own Play-doh or slime
- The science behind the perfect soccer or football kick
- Build a cause-and-effect (Rube Goldberg) apparatus
- Learn a magic trick and explain how it works

Experiments:

- Which style birdfeeder attracts more birds?
- What bridge holds the most weight?
- Does playing a video game cause your heart to beat faster?
- What makes water evaporate the fastest?
- What happens if you leave out or substitute an ingredient from your favorite recipe?
- What type of container keeps food freshest?
- What type of fabric holds fabric dye the best?
- Where does a plant grow faster - just inside a window or outside, the north side or south side of my house?

See also: https://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project-ideas/list

Questions? Email: claytonsciencefair@gmail.com