2024 Folsom Hills Elementary Science Fair
Wednesday, May 1

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for your support in your child's interest to participate in our 2024 Science Fair. To prepare you for this exciting science adventure, we put together this packet of materials to make things EASY!

Note: 3-panel display boards will be provided to all participants, be sure to pick yours up in the office.

If you have any questions, ideas or concerns, please reach out!

Thank you,

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A science fair project is a test you do to **find an answer** to a **testable question**. Be careful not to choose a demonstration--find something that is testable.

SCIENTIFIC METHOD

Scientists use the scientific method to find answers to questions and to solve problems.

1. Ask a **QUESTION** 
2. **RESEARCH** the topic 
3. State **HYPOTHESIS** 
4. **TEST** hypothesis 
5. Analyze **DATA** 
6. Report **RESULTS** 

PARENTS DOS AND DON'TS

Please DO these things

1. Read through this packet with your child.
2. Assist your child in finding a project that is interesting and challenging based on his/her ability level, and possible to complete in the time available.
3. Help her/him to understand the steps that need to be followed.
4. Take your child to the library or help them use the Internet.
5. Discuss the importance of accurate observations and careful record keeping.
6. Supervise the use of tools, chemicals, or other hazardous materials.
7. Give lots of encouragement along the way.
8. Discuss ways to display the project.
9. Encourage your child to make clear, neat lettering for on the display board.
10. HAVE FUN!!

Please DON'T do these things

- Don't do the project for your child.
- Don't let your child wait until the last minute to start planning.
- Don't let your child think the project is a failure if it doesn't work out as expected. That is what an experiment is all about!

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Run a Controlled Experiment

- Your controls are the things you are keeping the same.
- Your variables are the things you are changing or experimenting with.

Graphs, Charts, or Pictures

- Show what happened during your experiment.
- Taking pictures or saving materials makes the display board more interesting.
- Graphs, charts, and pictures can show your results.

Put it all together on the 3-panel display board!

- The purpose of the display board is to explain the project, it should be neat and easy to read – don't forget to use color and have fun with it!
- Be sure that people can understand what was done to test the hypothesis.

EXAMPLE OF 3-PANEL DISPLAY BOARD

Left panel
A Testable Question (this question should not have a yes/no answer)
Hypothesis
Variables: What changes
Control: What stays the same

Center Panel
Title
Materials Used
Procedures/Steps

Right panel
Results: the outcome of your experiment
Conclusion: Was your hypothesis correct? If not, what could be done differently? What did the student learn about the subject?

Example of a Kindergartener Project below (Note: this project did not follow all of the recommendations here, but is provided only as a visual example of a display board)

SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT RUBRIC AND CHECKLIST

Below is the rubric that the judges will use at the Science Fair.
Please refer to this as your child conducts their experiment and creates their 3-panel display board.

- **Students in all grades will be presenting their project (to the judges) during the school day on Wednesday, May 1**
- **Only 3rd grade through 5th grade will be judged. All other participants will receive a participation ribbon.**

Student: _____
Grade: _____
Project Title: _____

☐ **Question** – Is there a testable question?

☐ **Hypothesis** – Is there a testable hypothesis?

☐ **Variables** – Are the variables listed?

☐ **Control** – Is a control identified?

☐ **Title** – Is a creative title given?

☐ **Materials** – Are all the materials listed?

☐ **Procedures/Steps** – Are all the steps listed? Are the steps detailed? Are the steps in order? Is some form of measurement included?

☐ **Results** – Are the results of the experiment explained?

☐ **Conclusion** – Does it discuss the accuracy of the hypothesis?

☐ **Neatness/Visually Appealing**

☐ **Oral Presentation** – How clearly is the information presented? How knowledgeable is the presenter? Eye contact (be sure not to just read off the board), posture, loudness, accuracy of pronunciation of words.