



Science Fair 2009

1st -3rd Grade, Due Monday, Feb. 2nd

First, second and third graders are invited to participate in the Brown School Science Fair. They may choose to submit either a science collection or to follow the science project format. Science is fun, and our goal is to get kids involved in science early through hands-on projects. These collections and projects will not be graded, and there will not be prizes awarded, but they will be judged, so they

must be turned in on time.

Participation is optional, but all students are encouraged to submit a collection or project. This should be fun and engaging, and geared to the child's age and abilities. Most first and second graders, and some third graders will want to do a collection. Some second, and most third graders will be more engaged with the experimental science project approach.

Note to parents: First graders are best at observing, measuring, and identifying properties. By second and third grade, they can start also seeking evidence and exploring patterns and cycles to explain what they have observed.

For students doing a collection, please start with the following guidelines:

1. It must be a nature or science collection (rocks, insects, shells, fossils, twigs etc...no toys please)
2. The collection items should be labeled clearly, and mounted securely on a board or in a box or container of some sort (we don't want their items to get lost!). Younger children do great under 10-12 items, older children can keep track of up to 20-25.
3. They should have their name, grade, and teacher's name on their collection as well.
4. Neatness counts! Don't worry if labels or project parts are not typed. We want them to do the work, but a good guide is that if you can't read it, the teacher won't be able to either. Parent help is appreciated, and welcome, but rather than doing it for them, guide your child through organizing it and putting it together.

For students doing a science project, please start with the following guidelines:

1. See the Science Project Guidelines and Resources Packet.
2. Keep the projects simple for this age group, there are examples attached and the web sites suggested have grade-appropriate projects that are great for younger elementary children.

3. Neatness counts! Don't worry if project parts are not typed. We want them to do the work, but a good guide is that if you can't read it, the teacher won't be able to either. Parent help is appreciated, and welcome, but rather than doing it for them, guide your child through organizing it and putting it together.
4. Poster board is fine, or they can use tri-fold presentation boards (available at Office Depot or Staples usually). **These projects should not be expensive!** Be inventive, use color, make simple graphs, make models or simple demos. Pictures are worth a thousand words.
5. When helping your child put their project together for display, a good guide is to have them explain it to you or a brother or sister. That helps them decide what's important to put on their display to make it understandable.

If you are unsure about level of difficulty, check out:

http://www.nsrconline.org/curriculum_resources/elementary.html#AgeAppropriate

This is a science curriculum program out of the Smithsonian Institute, but it has a nice explanation of what each of the different grades is capable of in terms of understanding the scientific process.

Suggested websites (just a few are included, there are tons! Below are specific science fair sites and geeky fun science sites!):

<http://www.all-science-fair-projects.com/>

<http://school.discovery.com/sciencefaircentral/scifairstudio/ideas.html>

<http://www.ipl.org/div/kidspage/projectguide/>

<http://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/nceas-web/kids/>

<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/fair.html>

<http://www.isd77.k12.mn.us/resources/cf/welcome.html>

<http://www.tryscience.org/>

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/kids/fair/ideasframe.htm/>

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/4kids/sciencefair.html>

<http://www.juliantrubin.com/fairprojects.html>

<http://www.sciencemadesimple.com/projects.html>

<http://www.scholastic.com/magicschoolbus/>

Remember that your media center is also open Tuesday evenings during school if you need access to a computer.