

**WHAT IS A SCIENCE FAIR?**

First of all, this is the 2nd year of our science fair, so while we want it to be spectacular and a huge success, we also realize that it’s still a learning process for all of us involved. While it is a grade for science, there is also a competitive factor involved which involves the awards. Awards will be given to the top 3 middle school entrants based on judges’ evaluations. Science grades for their projects will be based solely from my evaluation of their entries.

A science fair is a time when students display, experiment, or demonstrate a science project, survey, or research he/she is really interested in at the same time as other students in an open area for others to visit. Judges will be there as well to rate the entries of all students (for more on the ratings continue to read).

Middle school projects should be exciting for the students, and something they are interested in learning more about. Look for a project that will keep you interested above all else! We also want this project to be YOUR’S. With that being stated, judges will disqualify you if they suspect you did not do the project. We do encourage your family to help your project; however, make sure you are involved in all aspects of the project.

**WHY PARTICIPATE?**

Doing a science project is an integrated learning experience with a worthwhile educational payoff. Successful completion of a project requires application of language skills (writing, expressing thoughts orally), and mathematical skills (quantifying data, interpreting data, problem solving). Students must also exhibit self-discipline and study habits necessary to complete a long-range study, search out resource material, and carry out the investigation.

Huh? In other words…IT’S CHALLENGING, LETS YOU DISCOVER SOMETHING IN SCIENCE YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT’S FUN!

**HOW DO I SIGN UP?**

Read over all the papers attached and return the paper “Intent to Participate” with appropriate signatures.

**WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?**

Contact Mr. Pastrick, pastrickd@hebronschools.k12.in.us,

or view the website [www.hebronsciencefair.weebly.com](http://www.hebronsciencefair.weebly.com) for important dates.

**Rules? What Rules?**

**Here they are…ask any time you are unclear on what any of these mean.**

1. Number one rule… think safety first before you start.
2. Projects must be set up between the hours of 3:00 and 4:00 P.M. on April 10th. **No late exhibits accepted!**
3. **ALL students will receive a unique certificate regardless of their grade.**
4. Exhibits not taken home by April 10th by 7 P.M. will be discarded. Hebron Elementary and Middle School teachers or principals will not assume responsibility for loss or damage to any of the exhibits. There will be supervision there at all times, but you are encouraged to label all items with your name.
5. Exhibits must conform to size limits--no more than 40 inches wide and no more than 36 inches deep. Exhibits should not exceed 54 inches height above the table surface.
6. Exhibits must be free standing because they may not be near walls.
7. Exhibits must be on display boards or can be made with cardboard. They must stand alone.
8. Exhibits will have access to electrical power. If your project will need power, request one week in advance to due date by contacting Mr. Pastrick.
9. Never eat or drink during an experiment and always keep your work area clean.
10. Wear protective goggles when doing any experiment that could lead to eye injury.
11. Do not touch, taste or inhale chemicals or chemical solutions.
12. Respect all life forms. Do not perform an experiment that will harm an animal.
13. All experiments should be supervised by an adult!
14. Always wash your hands after doing the experiment, especially if you have been handling chemicals or animals.
15. Dispose waste properly.
16. Any project that involves drugs, firearms, or explosives are not permitted.
17. Any project that breaks district policy, and/or local, state or federal laws are not permitted.
18. Use safety on the internet! Never write to anyone without an adult knowing about it. Be sure to let an adult know about what websites you will be visiting, or have them help you search.
19. If there are dangerous aspects of your experiment, like using sharp tools or experimenting with electricity, please have an adult help you or have them do the dangerous parts. That’s what adults are for, so use them correctly. (Besides, it makes them feel important!)
20. Only one student per entry.
21. You cannot bring the materials of your experiment for the display or perform the experiment live, unless you have received prior approval. You can however, mount things on your board in a type of 3D display, but remember that your board has to be able to stand by itself, so don’t get carried away. If you do mount things on the board, try not to mount something expensive that you bought and make sure you have things mounted securely so they don't fall off. YOU MAY NOT MOUNT ANY FOOD OR ORGANIC MATERIALS!
22. Limit your presentation to 5 minutes at the most, 2-3 minutes on speaking and the rest for the judges to ask questions.
23. No recording or transmitting devices are permitted.. (no tape recorders or secret walkie-talkies, cell phones or other James Bond toys.)
24. Respect all other participants as well as those involved in organizing the event!

**Intent to Participate Form:**

***Hebron Science Fair Form***

**Parent Signature**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Phone Number**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please **print full name** of the participant. Such information is needed for the printed program.

Student(s) Name(s) Grade Level

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I want to do an experiment involving:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**RETURN THIS FORMBY: March 3rd**

**This is NOT your final topic, but it gives us an idea of range of**

**projects that might be entered.**

**We will send a final topic selection page home**

**on or after February 20th.**

**Final Topic Selection Page**

***Return this page to your teacher or the office between February 23rd to March 3rd.***

**Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Participant:***

Student(s) Name(s) Grade Level

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**My project title for the Hebron Science Fair is:**

**Helpful Hints to Begin…**

**SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT IDEAS**

Science fairs give students the opportunity to study a topic that interests them. Projects can

be as varied as your students’ interests such as sports, music, art, rocketry, psychology and

computers. The best ideas come from something that you wonder about, or from something that interests you. If you are having trouble coming up with ideas, **there are many books at the library** (our public library in town has many books on science fairs and projects) and numerous web sites with ideas (see below).

One of the hardest parts of the science fair is deciding on a project. A good project should:

Be FUN

Help you learn something that you did not know before

Demonstrate creativity

Be unique

Show off your knowledge about the world we live in

**ONLINE RESOURCES**

Below are a number of different websites which offer great information about ideas for the

science fair. Check out the different sites and find a fun idea that will work for you! There are numerous others online as well, so please do not limit yourself to just the ones we have listed for you.

**http://www.all-science-fair-projects.com/**

**http://www.scienceproject.com/**

**http://www.sciencebuddies.org/**

**http://www.education.com/science-fair/middle-school/**

**Important!!**

While it is expected that projects be neat and legible, a Science Fair project is not an art project. Rather than spending time on the appearance of the display, the emphasis should be on understanding and applying the scientific process.

# Open House Night

Stay tuned for more information about an open house night in which I have some helpers at the school and we are there to help you with ideas, answer questions, and sell display boards. This will not be for a while (probably closer to spring break)so in the meantime if you want to go ahead and purchase a display board I would recommend doing so (we will have a limited amount to sell).