

CU SCIENCE FAIR

Dear Parents,

It is time to get ready for the Children's University Science Fair! The date has been set for Monday, March 30th, 2009. Project entries are required for all students in grades 3-6. Project boards will be submitted to the homeroom teacher the morning of March 30th, 2009. Students will make oral and visual presentations in class throughout the week during assigned time slots. Project boards will be set up in the Gym and judged by a private panel on Friday, April 3rd. Children's University will hold an open house and awards assembly on Monday, April 6th.

Remember, children should select projects that match their interests and abilities. The science fair experience should be fun, yet educational for your child! Thinking skills your child develops while doing the science fair project are the same basic skills that will be used daily throughout life to sense and clarify problems that exist and to find creative solution to those problems. The Children's University science fair could possibly be the catalyst that initiates the necessary creativity, drive and confidence for a successful academic and professional career.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school. We look forward to a successful CU Science Fair!

Sincerely,

Mr. Alcantar
Mrs. Johnson



PROJECT RULES

1. Projects must be EXPERIMENTAL. No demonstrations, models or "how to's" allowed.
2. Projects must follow Scientific Method Guidelines.
3. Projects are individual and must be constructed by the STUDENT. Teachers, parents and technically trained people may only give information and advice.
4. Exhibits must be presented on a cardboard, tri-fold presentation board. (32" wide X 30" high)
5. All displays must be self-supporting.
6. You may NOT display bacteria cultures, chemicals, food, food products or live animals at the fair. Please take pictures of any of these items to display on your board for verification of the items used in the experiment
7. Pictures may NOT contain identifiable photos of the children. Please take pictures of hands and arms working on the project or mouths below eye level ONLY.
8. Names are not allowed on projects. All information such as: name, teacher's name, grade, etc. should be left off the display board. Please attach a piece of paper with your child's name on the back of the board.
9. Projects must follow safety guidelines.
10. Projects will be grouped according to the student's grade level.
11. No student, sponsor or parent will be allowed in the gymnasium during the judging period.
12. The decision of the judges is final.

GRADING & JUDGING CRITERIA

The CU Science Fair is an opportunity to illustrate your child's creativity and ability to utilize critical thinking skills in order to solve a problem. Thus, Children University has required all students in grades 3-6 to participate in the science fair. Your child has and will spend numerous class periods learning about the scientific method and problem solving skills necessary to create a competitive project.

Your child will give an oral presentation in class throughout the week of March 30-April 3. The students will be given two "test" grades for their display board and oral presentation. The grading criterion is as follows:

- Display Board (100 pts; test grade)
 - o Organization Skill
 - o Neatness
 - o Use of Materials
 - o Creativity and Attractiveness
 - o Clear use of Scientific Method (All Steps)
 - o Correct use of Grammar
- Oral Presentation (100 pts; test grade)
 - o Ability to Clearly Summarize Experiment and Display Board
 - o Strong, Clear Speaking Voice
 - o Ability to Keep Eye Contact During Presentation
 - o Knowledge of Scientific Method
 - o Knowledge of Project
 - o Ability to Effectively Answer Questions from Peers and Teachers.

NOTE: 3rd & 4th Grade- Paper Summary and Oral Presentation
5th & 6th Grade- PowerPoint Summary and Oral Presentation

SCIENTIFIC METHOD

Students must include all the steps of the scientific method, have the correct information under each step and have all steps in the correct order. Please remember to be neat and check all spelling. Every display board should include the following:

Project Title (Topic)

- Question or problem being investigated.

Purpose Statement

- Must be stated in a complete sentence. The purpose should be a question that you are trying to answer by doing an experiment. Typically a rewording of the topic or project title. It is usually written as "The purpose is to find out..."

Hypothesis

- Must be stated in a complete sentence. Your hypothesis is an educated guess of the answer to your purpose. The hypothesis must be formed prior to experiment. Remember, it is okay to be wrong after you complete the experiment. Don't go back and change your hypothesis. It is usually written as "The hypothesis of the experiment is..."

Materials

- List all materials, be specific and give quantities (measures). Do not put in paragraph style. Remember your project must be written in complete detail. Do not leave out any materials.

Procedure (Method)

- Must be stated in a complete sentence. However, Do NOT put in paragraph style.

- List step by step direction of what you will be doing during your experiment. Be specific and detailed. Make sure to say that you are going to repeat the experiment with different variables. Remember, your teacher should be able to do your experiment by following your directions without talking to you.

Variables (Manipulated)

- Must be stated in a complete sentence. State the one or number of things that you are changing in the experiment or test. "What are you testing?"

Constants

- Must be stated in a complete sentence. List everything that stayed the same in each experiment or trial.

Results (Data)

- Keep a record of all data for each time you complete or check on your experiment. You may keep a data log including the date and the results of each time you worked on or checked on your experiment. Your results must be written out in paragraph style. You must also make a graph/s (bar, line or circle) and table to show your results and data. Pictures may be used to supplement or validate experiment results. Make sure your teacher will understand the results of every time you repeated your experiment and the final results. Remember, this is NOT your conclusion. Do NOT state your final thought and validation of hypothesis.

Conclusion

- In a complete sentence tell whether your hypothesis was supported or not supported. Explain the final results and what they mean. Tell what you might do differently next time if you were to do this experiment again.

DISPLAY MODEL

The following is an example of an ideal layout for the display project board. I encourage your student to use their creative liberty to redesign and order the display in a way that would allow individual uniqueness and creativity. However, the following headings should be included in your students display.

