Science Fair Project Handbook

2012-2013

For Parents and Students

November, 2012

Dear 6th through 8th Grade Parents and Guardians,

We are proud to welcome you to the Legacy Traditional School—NW Tucson Science Fair. Over the next 3 months, your son/daughter will be completing their project and participating in the Science Fair to be held on February 13th(4th grade), 14th(5th Grade),18th(6th Grade), and 19th(7th & 8th Grade), 2013 at our school. This is an exciting opportunity for your son/daughter to use the scientific method solve a scientific or engineering problem.

The science fair project must be an experiment or engineering problem that your child chooses, is grade-level appropriate, and is approved by the teacher. It is important that you understand what topic they have chosen and how they plan to do it. They may need your help.

This project involves several steps:

1. Research
2. Completion of Experiment or Engineering of the Project
3. Final Notebook
4. Display board & Oral presentation

You will find a timeline listing project deadlines on page 3. Assignments will be graded when they are turned in on the due date. There will also be a completed notebook, display board, and oral presentation grade which will account for a significant portion of your child’s science grade and replace a book report and poem recitation (4th through 6th grade only).

Through this project, students will get an opportunity to do “hands-on” science, learn to design and follow through on an experiment or engineering project, make conclusions based on their work, meet deadlines, and have the opportunity to compete with other students in our school and regional fairs.

We hope you are as excited as we are for the chance to help your child with this project. If you have any questions regarding the science fair, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you,

Legacy NW Tucson Science Fair Coordinators

**Timeline:**

-November 14: Receive Science Fair packet

-December 10: Project Proposal due

-December 14: Problem statement due

-January 11: Details of Testing & Hypothesis due

-January 16: Materials list & Procedures due (remember METRIC SYSTEM); Start Testing!

-January 30: Data Charts, Graphs, & Conclusion (includes the possible Every Day Application of

concept) due

-February 6: Expansion, Limitations, Acknowledgements, Bibliography, & Abstract due

-February 13: 4th Grade Display & Notebook due

-February 14: 5th Grade Display & Notebook due

-February 18: 6th Grade Display & Notebook due

-February 19: 7th & 8th Grade Display & Notebook due

-February 11-28: Oral Presentations (scheduled by classroom teacher)

-February 25: SARSEF registration due (Top 4 from each grade level)

-March 8: Legacy District Science Fair (held at Athlos)

-March 11-15: SARSEF at Tucson Convention Center

\* This project is considered to be a long-term assignment. Each assignment that is due will not be accepted late and will be given a zero (Please refer to our Student-Parent Handbook).

**Materials Needed:**

-One folder with brads/pockets, or a three-ring binder

-At least 15 sheet protectors (optional)

- A tri-fold display board (available at most office supply or craft stores)

-Additional supplies to complete experiment

**Project Proposal**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, propose the following investigation for my science fair project.

**Question:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Purpose:** (What I want to find out through my project)

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

**Hypothesis:** (My best prediction or explanation to my question or problem)

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**Materials:** (What will I need to test my hypothesis?)

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**Procedure:** (Step by step directions of what I will do to answer my question)

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**Please sign and date the back.This is the Science Fair Project that I want to do.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature

I support my child’s efforts in doing this science fair project.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature

The project meets the requirements for the science fair.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature

If selected within the Top 4 of my grade level, I am interested in competing at SARSEF (Southern Arizona Regional Science & Engineering Fair). \_\_\_\_\_YES \_\_\_\_NO

Please return this form to your science teacher. A copy of your proposal will be made and returned to you. Project proposals must be attached to the back of the Science Fair Project display board. If you need to make a change to your original proposal, you must clear this through your classroom teacher.

**Science Fair Project STEP-BY-STEP**

**--------------------------------------------**

**-Research and Locate a Problem: November 12 through December 4**

Parents: Please make sure that students only see the experiment information, not the end results. This will allow students to make a hypothesis based on their own knowledge, not from what they read from the Internet or what someone has told them.

Suggested resources:

<http://www.all-science-fair-projects.com/category0.html>

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

<http://azsef.asu.edu>

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**-Project Proposal: due December 10**

Turn in your Project Proposal form. (In third person)

-**Problem Statement: due December 14**

Turn in your science folder with your Problem Statement (Needs to be written in third person)

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**-Details of Testing: due January 11**

Turn in your science folder with your details of testing.

**\* Explain each variable of testing.**

-Control Variables: items in the original environment that are going to be constant and will not be changing during the experiment. This is what you compare your variable results to for observation of change.

-Independent Variable: one item changed in environment to see its effect on the dependent variable. This is what you change

-Dependent Variables: what you are going to be observing and measuring, as well as what is changing as a result from the independent variable. This is what the data is, it is dependent on the independent variable.

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-**Hypothesis: due January 11**

Turn in your science folder with your hypothesis.

\*Using your **problem**, form your hypothesis in a third person. You may use cause and effect relationship.

“If \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, then \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

Example:

If an equal amount of water is placed on each diaper, then the Pampers brand will absorb the most water.

\*A hypothesis is a possible explanation to a problem. It should be written as though you already know it to be the supported answer. Write it as though it is fact.

**PARENTS**: The hypothesis is a possible explanation of what will occur during the science project, and should be based on background knowledge about the subject. It is okay if the hypothesis is wrong. That is the point of this project. If the hypothesis ends up being wrong, the student will focus on how to modify the project to eliminate errors, or learn something that was unknown before. Remember: Do not tell your child the end results. The students should predict what will occur (without the help of an adult or the Internet) and find out for themselves.

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**-Material list: due January 16**

Turn in your science folder with your materials list.

\* List all materials and equipment that are going to be used.

\* All materials need to be in the metric system.

<http://www.metric-conversions.org/metric-conversion-table.htm>

\*Please be specific (How many? What size?).

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**-Procedure list: due January 16**

Turn in your science folder with your procedure list.

\* Detailed explanation of how you will conduct your experiment to test your hypothesis, using step-by –step instructions.

\* The procedure should be like a recipe—another person should be able to perform the experiment following the procedure. Test this with a friend or parent to make sure nothing has been forgotten. The more specific your procedures, the more reproducible your experiment/project, and the more reliable your results will be.

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**-Start Testing: January 16**

\* Depending on your project, you may have started earlier than this date, that is great!

\* Take pictures (only of the project, **not** of people)

\* Keep documentation (charts, graphs, notes, journal, etc.)

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**-Data Chart, Graph, & Conclusion: due January 30**

Turn in science folder with data chart, graph, and conclusion.

\* Chart: Represents the observations and documentation of testing

\* Graph:Take data from chart, and make a graph (bar, pie, line, etc.) that represents the data in

the best way visually.

Remember: METRIC UNITS

\* Conclusion: At least two paragraphs (4-6 sentences) in length

\* Any pattern or trends noticed?

\* Restates and answers the problem question; restates hypothesis

\* Do your results reflect your hypothesis? Why or why not?

\* Brief explanation of results and how you came to the conclusion; include any possible every-

day applications of the problem and results.

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**-Expansion: due February 6**

Turn in science folder with expansion.

\*What can be done in the future to improve this project? (In third person)

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-**Limitations: due February 6**

Turn in science folder with limitations

\*A good explanation of everything in your project that may cause room for error in results, including items out of your control. (In third person)

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-**Acknowledgements: due February 6**

Turn in science folder with acknowledgements.\*I would like to say thank you to…

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**-Bibliography: due February 6**

The Bibliography is an **alphabetical** list of the sources that you used to research your topic, design the experiment and form the hypothesis. Look at the format that shows how each example is to be typed. Use this format exactly when you type your bibliography.

**Examples of how to cite your sources in a Bibliography:**

# BOOKS

## SINGLE AUTHOR

Author (Last Name, First Name). Title of Book. City: Publishing Company, Date.

Duggan, Alfred. The Castle Book. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1991.

## BOOK BY TWO OR MORE AUTHORS

First Author (Last Name, First Name) and Second Author (First Name, Last Name. Title of Book. City: Publishing Company, Date.

Jacobson, Morris K. and Rosemary K. Pang. Wonders of Sponges. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1997.

### PERIODICALS

## MAGAZINE ARTICLE WITH AUTHOR

Author (Last Name, First Name). "Title of Article." Title of Magazine. Volume or Edition (Month and Year of Publication), page(s).

Severy, Merle. "The World of Bees."National Geographic. 172 (November 1997), 552.

## MAGAZINE ARTICLE WITHOUT AUTHOR

"Title of Article. "Title of Newspaper. Volume or Edition (Month and Year of Publication) page(s).

"New Human Life."Science News. 132 (December 26, 1994), 391.

## NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WITH AUTHOR

Author (Last Name, First Name). "Title of Article."Title of Newspaper. Date.

Anderson, Jack. "Nuclear Regulators." Rocky Mountain News. January 5, 1998.

## NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WITHOUT AUTHOR

"Title of Article."† Title of Newspaper.† Date.

"Asian Nations Putting Pressure on France."New York Times, July 30, 1995.

### ENCYCLOPEDIAS

"Title of Article." Complete Title of Encyclopedia, year.

"Laser," World Book Encyclopedia, 1995.

### ELECTRONIC SOURCES

## CD ROM

"Name of Article" Complete Title of Encyclopedia or Program. City: Publishing Company, Date.

"Astronomy." Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia. Danbury: Grolier Electronic Publishing Co., 195.

## WWW SITES

Author (Last Name, First Name). "Title of Work. " Date posted on WWW (Latest date if available). URL//and full address (date you obtained information).

Burka, Lauren P. "Hypertext History."1992. httyp://www.ccs.new.edu/home/lpd/mud, (Dec. 5, 1994).

### OTHER SOURCES

## INTERVIEW

Last Name, First name. Interview. Interview location. City, Sate, Month, Day, Year.

Schweitzer, Brian. Interview. Governors Office. Helena, Montana, Feb. 4, 2005.

## VIDEOTAPE

Title of program. city: Production or Publishing company. Date, Type of media.

Joan of Arc; A Portrait of a Legend. New York: Vid American, Inc. 1985. Videocassette.

## TV PROGRAM

Title of Program. Staton. Month, Day, Year, City, State. Type of Program.

USA Tonight. CBS, Dec. 4, 1997. New York City: New York. Television broadcast.

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**-Abstract: due February 13**

Turn in science folder with abstract (this will be page 2 of your folder, following the title page).

The abstract is a very important part of your science project. A person should be able to read your abstract and have a complete idea of what your project was about, how it was carried out, and what results were observed. An abstract is written in third person, must fit on one page, and is no more than 250 words.

Follow the outline below.

\***Project Title**

\***Body:** In paragraph form, the abstract must summarize the project by explaining the following:

\*Purpose of your project/experiment

-The purpose is a statement about what you are attempting to find out by doing the experiment.

-Use an “attention getter” when writing your purpose paragraph.

-Include a statement of the problem and your hypothesis.

\* Procedures Used:

-The procedure is the step-by-step description of how to perform the experiment.

-This portion does not have to be as detailed as your materials and procedures write up, but should include the following in the overview: How you will keep the controlled conditions the same, when to measure the data, when to record the data, and how many trials to repeat (written in paragraph format).

\*Observation/Data/Results:

-The results should explain what the graphs show using words and numbers.

-Use this information to explain the answer to the project question.

\*Conclusion:

-The conclusion should compare your hypothesis and results.

-Restate you hypothesis, state if correct, and state the numbers from the result that support your conclusion.

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**-Title Page & Table of Contents—Due February 13**

You will need a title page that identifies the title of your project and your grade level, teacher’s name. \*No student names should be on the title page, your name is to be placed on the last page of your notebook. Your table of contents should list the individual items/categories according to the page they appear on. You may put more than one item on a page to save paper. Use business font faces and sizes when typing (Times New Roman or Ariel, size 12), and double spacing.

**Final Grade for Folder will be given at this time.**

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**-Display Board: due February 13—19 (depending on grade level)**

Turn in final tri-fold display board.

\* Be creative.

\*Make it attractive and eye-catching.

\*Remember to include only pictures of the experiment, not of people.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Abstract  Problem  Hypothesis  Materials | **TITLE**  Data Chart and Graph  \*\*This middle section should be decorated and have visuals | Procedures  Conclusion  Application  (how this project applies to real life) |

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**Presentation: due February 11-28 (scheduled by classroom teacher)**

In class, students will present science fair projects. These presentations will be only 2-4 minutes focusing on a particular item, depending on grade level.

**4th grade: Display Board**

**5th grade:**

**6th grade:**

**7th grade:**

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**-Science Fair:**

Parents and Students will be able to walk around to see all the complete science fair projects. At the end of the fair, there will be an award ceremony. Winners from each grade level will be asked if they would like to enter and participate in SARSEF (Southern AZ Regional Science & Engineering Fair) at the Tucson Community Center. SARSEF entries are due February 25, and the Fair takes place March 11-15.

Awards (per grade):

1st place

2nd place

3rd place

Best Data

Best Display

Most Creative

Best Folder

Notebook Rubric: GP 4

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Check Assignment off when completed. | Notebook Due Assignments  **(This project is a considered a long-term assignment, therefore each assignment will not be accepted late. See Parent/Student handbook for further information.)** |  |
|  | **Problem:**  Question form (9pts)  Big, bold, nicely print or typed (1pt) | \_\_\_\_out of 10 pts. |
|  | **Details of Testing:**  Controlled Variables (9pts)  Independent Variables (20pts)  Dependent Variables (20pts)  Typed or printed neatly (1pt) | \_\_\_\_out of 50 pts. |
|  | **Hypothesis:**  In an ---if, then statement (8pts)  In a complete sentences (1pts)  Typed or printed neatly (1pt) | \_\_\_\_out of 10 pts. |
|  | **Material List:**  List all supplies and amount in metric (9pts)  Typed or printed neatly (1pt) | \_\_\_\_out of 10 pts. |
|  | **Procedure List:**  Step by Step instructions (19pts)  Typed or printed neatly (1pt) | \_\_\_\_out of 20 pts. |
|  | **Total:** | \_\_\_\_out of 100 pts. |

Notebook Rubric Continued: GP 4

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Check Assignment off when completed. | **Notebook Due Assignments**  **(This project is a considered a long-term assignment, therefore each assignment will not be accepted late. See Parent/Student handbook for further information.)** |  |
|  | **Title Page and Notebook:**  Typed or printed neatly (2pt)  Notebook with Name and Teacher (1pt) | \_\_\_\_ out of 3 pts. |
|  | **Table of Contents:**  Typed or printed neatly (1 point)  Has title, list, and page #’s (1 point) | \_\_\_\_ out of 2 pt. |
|  | **Data Chart:**  Represents the observations and documentation of testing (5pts)  Information is in metric units (4pts)  Typed or printed neatly (1pt) | \_\_\_\_ out of 10 pts. |
|  | **Graph:**  Represents the data in the best way (5pts)  Information is in metric units (4pts)  Typed or printed neatly (1pt) | \_\_\_\_ out of 10 pts. |
|  | **Conclusion:**  Two paragraphs- 4-6 sentences each (2pts)  Restates question and hypothesis and answers hypothesis (2pts)  Results agree or disagree with hypothesis (1pt)  Explain results and your conclusion (14pts)  Typed or printed neatly (1pt) | \_\_\_\_out of 20 pts. |
|  | **Expansion:**  Explains what else you could have done in the future, written in third person (4pt)  Typed or printed neatly (1pt) | \_\_\_\_ out of 5 pts. |
|  | **Application:**  Explains how the information could be applied to everyday life, written in third person (4pt)  Typed or printed neatly (1pt) | \_\_\_\_ out of 5 pts. |
|  | **Limitations:**  Explains elements of project that may have caused room for error in results, as well as elements that you were unable to control (4pts)  Typed or printed neatly (1pt) | \_\_\_\_ out of 5 pts. |
|  | **Acknowledgements:**  Thanks the people that assisted them in completing the project (4pt)  Typed or printed neatly (1pt) | \_\_\_\_ out of 5 pts.  **MORE ON BACK** |
|  | **Abstract:**  Project Title (2pt)  Purpose of your project/experiment (10pts)  Procedures Used (5pts)  Observations/Data/Results including measures of central tendency (20pts)  Conclusion (10pts)  Less than 250 words (2pts)  Typed or printed neatly (1pt) | \_\_\_\_out of 50 pts. |
|  | **Total:** | \_\_\_\_ out of 115 pts. |

Display Board Rubric

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Problem: | \_\_\_\_ out of 5pts. |
| Hypothesis: | \_\_\_\_ out of 5pts. |
| Materials: | \_\_\_\_ out of 10pts. |
| Procedure: | \_\_\_\_ out of 10pts. |
| Data and Results: | \_\_\_\_ out of 15pts. |
| Conclusion: | \_\_\_\_ out of 15pts. |
| Abstract: | \_\_\_\_ out of 20pts. |
| Application: | \_\_\_\_ out of 5pts. |
| Display:  Attractive, Creative, Information in Proper Order | \_\_\_\_ out of 15pts. |
| Final Grade: | / 100 pts. |

**This project is a considered a long-term assignment, therefore it will not be accepted late. See Parent/Student handbook for further information.**