



GUIDE FOR TEACHERS

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DO SCIENCE

One of the most important goals to keep in mind during the science fair is to expand a student's knowledge and understanding of science. This is a chance for your students to not only learn about science, but to **actually DO science**. Hands-on projects are one of the greatest ways to learn.

SPARK INTEREST

No matter the level of the student, **a science fair is an exciting way to spark a student's interest** and make learning fun.

BRAINSTORM CREATIVELY

Brainstorm with your students to find topics that excite them, then **use your creativity** to find a way to integrate science into those topics. The goal isn't to get all of your students to make world changing advances in science, but to experience the richness of the research process.

GO BEYOND

Science fairs can vary from a single class of students sharing their projects to a large international event that requires qualification and offers scholarships. No matter the level, all science fairs share the following traits:

- » The **power of the scientific method**
- » **Research** by experimentation
- » Developing a student's **critical thinking** skills
- » A **positive environment** for learning
- » **Going beyond** formal science classroom education

ENABLE STUDENTS

Set your students up for success! As the teacher, you will want to make sure each child is aware of guidelines for their project. To do this, create a rubric that outlines expectations for your students. The rubric should have:

- » **Timelines and due dates** - Give specific checkpoints so that they won't wait until the night before the fair to start on their project
- » **Project guidelines** - Give them structure and boundaries
- » **Grading scale** - Familiarize yourself with the grading scale the judges will be using to judge the projects

You should also provide scheduling information and expectations in a letter to parents. It is important to send this out at least one to two weeks before you make the first assignment for the project. In this letter, you may want to include the following:

- » **Timeline** that lists the date of the science fair and when each milestone is due
- » Safety information

Provide regular feedback to the students and to the parents to make sure that your students are on-track to have a great project by the day of your science fair.

HAVE FUN

Whether your students strengths are in reading, math, science, sports, or social studies, there are ways to tap into those areas of interest and build those skills with science fairs!

In the end you want to make sure that your students are excited for their science fair. After all, **science is FUN!**