

Science Fair News

Dear Parents,

Each year our school has each third and fourth grade student create and present a Science Fair Project. We have found this to be an excellent means of learning about the scientific process of experimentation. Our Science Fair at Sacred Heart School will be on Wednesday, March 8, 2017.

Each student will be awarded a ribbon for participating in the fair. At this time as many as twenty students will be chosen to exhibit their projects at the South Central Minnesota Regional Science Fair held at Minnesota State University - Mankato on Saturday, April 29, 2017.

Each third and fourth grade student will be required to submit a project for the Sacred Heart Science Fair. A science fair project is not intended to be a report on a scientific topic. It should be an experiment. It should involve a question and an experiment that answers that question. We feel that the most important things to be gained from this experience are to learn from others and to enjoy the learning that will take place. Observations made at past years' science fairs indicated that beneficial skills were being developed. Students exhibited critical thinking, active participation, and an enhanced self-concept. For many families the project also promoted an increased interest in science and interaction between the child and parent.

To help in the search for an experiment, the school has purchased several science teacher information and experiment suggestion books. They are located in the upstairs hallway at the entrance to the Media Center. In order to keep the books in circulation for the thirty nine students involved, we ask that they be returned within two school days.

The attached sheets will provide you with the information necessary for developing a science fair project with your child. In order to make this a continuing learning experience, we have set due dates for certain steps. Please refer to these sheets as the project gets underway.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your child's teacher. A sample science fair project will be set up by the library from January 3rd through March 7th for your viewing. Support of your child in this experience is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Third and Fourth Grade Teachers

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How do I find an idea for my Science Fair project?

Places to look for project ideas:

Library Books (Sacred Heart Library or the public library)

Science project books set up in the hallway by our library

Encyclopedias

Classroom teachers

Numerous websites under the subject "Science Fair Projects"

MN Regional Science & Engineering Fair Website

*The best resource is finding an answer to a question that is of interest to you!

As a student doing a science fair project you are eligible to use the website that Minnesota State University, Mankato has set up to help students, teachers, and parents with projects. The site provides links to dozens of project ideas from easy to challenging.

The website address is: www.mnsu.edu/sciencefair

Our own Sacred Heart website will include the pages of this packet and copies of the letters sent to parents about the 2016-2017 Science Fair. If you lose your copy of any of these, you can print a copy from the website under Science Fair.

The Sacred Heart website address is:

www.sacredheartwaseca.org

*Please note: Performing experiments on vertebrate animals (people, mice, dogs, etc.) involves filling out several forms, contacting a physician or veterinarian, and petitioning a committee at Minnesota State University for permission.

Your science fair project should be an **experiment**. You should be able to finish this statement when deciding what your topic is:

The purpose of my science project is to find out
what will happen if _____.

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GUIDELINES AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 26 Step 1 (Title), Step 2 (Question), and Step 3 (Hypothesis) must be completed on the Yellow sheet and brought to school by this date.
- February 2 Step 4 (Materials) and Step 5 (Procedure) must be completed on the Yellow sheet and brought to school by this date.
Step 6 The **Elementary Project Approval Form** (last page of the packet) must also be completed and handed in by this date.
- March 3 It is recommended that the display board (as pictured in the packet) be constructed with Steps 1-5 completed and placed on the board. The board does not need to be brought to school until the day of the Science Fair or night before.

Please review the checklist with your child to make sure you are ready for the fair on Wednesday, March 8, 2017.

CHECKLIST

- _____ 1. Do I need electricity for my project? If yes, have I told my teacher and located an extension cord? (Tables on which to display projects will be supplied by the school.)
- _____ 2. Have I made arrangements to transport my project to and from school on the day of or night before the fair?
- _____ 3. Are my results (graphs, tables, charts, data, etc.) completed and placed on my board?
- _____ 4. Are my pictures (if any) ready and placed on my board?
- _____ 5. Is my conclusion well-thought out and placed on my board?
- _____ 6. Have I practiced presenting my project?

Wednesday, March 8, 2017
Science Fair at Sacred Heart School
(Further details will be provided as the time of the fair draws near.)

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Name _____

Teacher _____ Grade _____

Science Fair Project

Due January 26

1. Title _____

2. Question (What do I want to learn) _____

3. Hypothesis (What do I think will happen) _____

Due February 2

4. Materials needed: _____

5. Procedure (list, step by step, how you will do your project)

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

E. _____

6. Bring in the **Elementary Project Approval Form** completed and signed.

Due March 3 (no need to bring into school until the Science Fair)

7. Results (any graphs, tables, charts, data, pictures, etc.)

8. Conclusions (What did you learn from this project? How will it help you in the future? Was your hypothesis correct?) _____

CONSTRUCTION OF THE BOARD

The board may be constructed of any durable material such as cardboard or wood.

Maximum dimensions of the board are shown below.

There are a variety of ways to exhibit your information; several options are listed below.

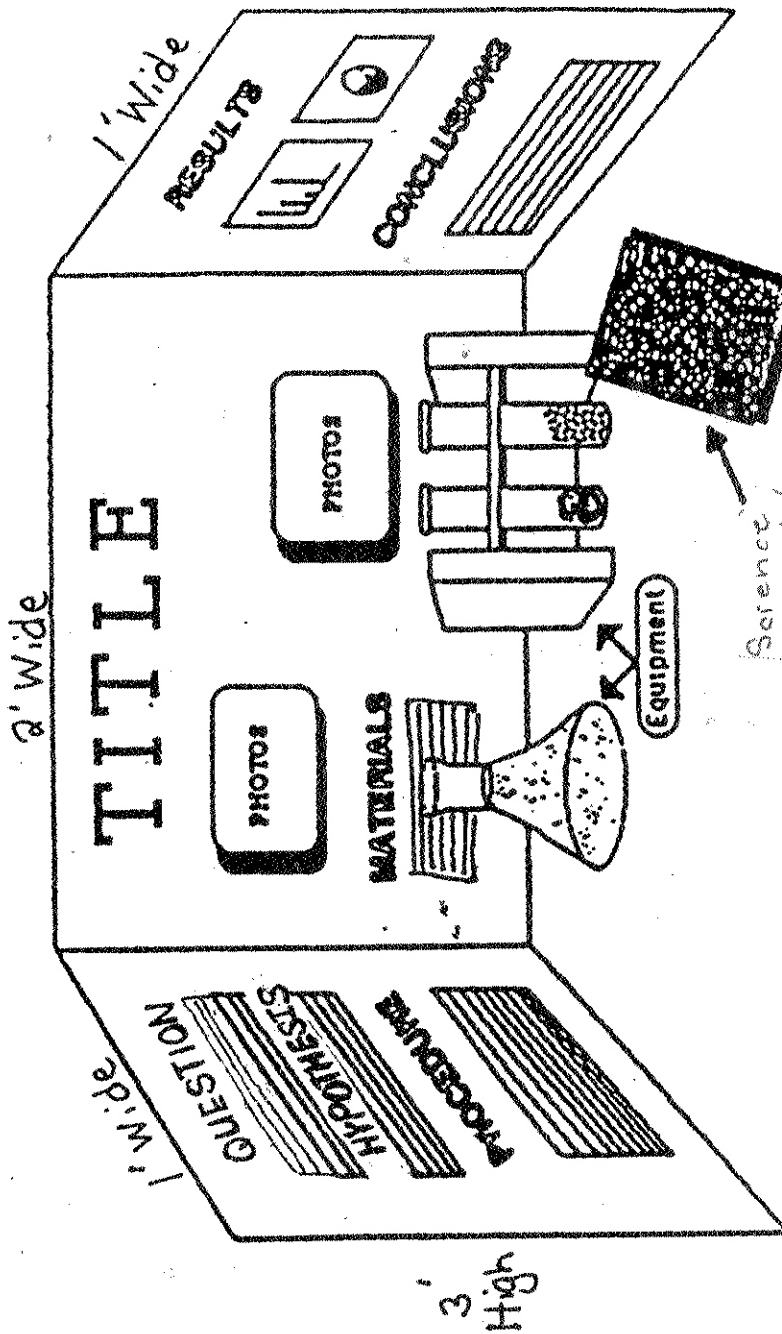
Information may be neatly printed, typed or computer typed.

Headings and titles may be traced and cut-out letters, stencils, or hand printed.

Headings should be placed in order shown below, for spacing reasons they can be moved over.

The board should be colorful and/or eye-catching as well as neat.

Consider that the board will need to withstand transportation.



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ELEMENTARY PROJECT APPROVAL FORM

This completed form is required for ALL projects.

1) Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Email (Optional): _____

2) Title of Project: _____

3) Briefly outline or describe your Research Plan:

4) School: Sacred Heart School School Phone: 507-835-2780

School Address: 308 W. Elm Avenue, Waseca, MN 56093

1) REQUIRED FOR ALL PROJECTS

a) Student Acknowledgment:

- I am sure that my project does not involve hazardous materials, chemicals, activities, or devices and does not place humans or animals at risk.
- My experiment as described in the Research Plan will be performed in a safe environment and will not endanger others.

Student's Printed Name

Signature

Date Acknowledged
(Must be prior to experimentation.)

b) **Parent/Guardian Approval:** I have read and understand the Research Plan. I consent to my child participating in this research and certify that the research will be conducted safely.

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

Signature

Date of Approval
(Must be prior to experimentation.)

c) **Teacher Approval:** I have read and understand the Research Plan and certify that it is safe for the student.

Teacher's Printed Name

Signature

Date of Approval

This form must be with the student's project on the day of the local and/or regional science fair.
Team projects only need one of these forms.

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March 3, 2017

Dear Parents,

The Sacred Heart Science Fair is fast approaching! **Setup time for the projects will be from 5:00 – 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday evening, March 7 or 7:30 - 8:00 A.M. on Wednesday morning, March 8.** A table will be set up with your child's assigned number on it in the Parish Center Gym. If your child cannot bring the project in on his or her own, please make arrangements for it to be dropped off at one of the times listed above. Judging will begin promptly at 8:30 A.M. and continue until approximately 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, March 8. Parents and visitors are not to be present during this time.

Open house for viewing the projects will be from 1:30 - 2:15 P.M. on Wednesday, March 8 with cleanup from 2:15 - 2:30 P.M. It is very important that no projects are removed until 2:15 because people will be viewing them until that time.

We are in need of a few parents to help us with cleaning up after the Science Fair on Wednesday, March 8, at about 2:15 P.M.

To assist us in our preparation, **please detach the bottom of this sheet and return it no later than Wednesday, March 1.** A copy will be sent home with your student as a reminder for you.

In case school is cancelled due to inclement weather, the Science Fair date will be rescheduled for Thursday, March 9.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call your child's teacher at 835-2780.

Thank you,
Third and Fourth Grade Teachers

Please check the following and return this portion to school by Wednesday, Mar. 1:

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

_____ The project will arrive Tues., March 7, between 5:00-6:00 P.M.

_____ The project will arrive Wed., March 8, between 7:30 & 8:00 A.M.

**** The project will be picked up no later than 2:50 P.M. on Wed. afternoon. My child will go home by:**

(circle one) bus car walk

Please check below if you are able to help at school:

_____ I will be able to help with cleaning up on Wed., March 8, at 2:15 P.M.

Parent's Signature _____

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(Prices subject to change.)

February 2, 2017

Dear Parents,

This year we will again be offering display boards for sale to be used for your child's Science Fair Project. There is a company that makes display boards for \$3.00 or \$3.50 each, depending on the color. This includes postage and handling. (A variety of stores such as Walmart and Hobby Lobby etc. also offer boards for purchase.)

If you would be interested in ordering, please return the bottom part of this note by **Thursday, February 9**. Include with the note cash or a check written out to Sacred Heart School.

Sincerely,

Third and Fourth Grade Teachers

_____ Yes, I would be interested in purchasing a Science Fair display board. I have circled my color choice and price below, and I have enclosed my payment.

Parent's signature

Child's name

white - \$3.00

green - \$3.50

red - \$3.50

yellow - \$3.50

blue - \$3.50

black - \$3.50

lt. blue - \$3.50

fuchsia - \$3.50