



GUIDE FOR PARENTS

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STEM WIZARD SCIENCE FAIR REFERENCE

Congrats! Your child is participating in a science fair. This process can be an exciting time for a child and parent to collaborate and learn together. Here are a few tips that can help make the experience go smoothly.

- » **Good planning and preparation** can save you from the dreaded “9pm the night before” nightmare! Knowing and sticking to science fair deadlines is crucial.
- » If your child has received a schedule of things to turn in for the fair, put that schedule into your calendar so that you can help them **stay on-track**.
- » Your child will receive the most benefit from the science fair when doing most of the project themselves. You can help and encourage, but **be wary of robbing them of this valuable learning experience by doing the work for them**.
- » Judges will be looking at the quality of the final project, but more importantly your child’s experience of the project itself. Winning projects aren’t those with the most professional tri-fold or presentation, but those where **the student wrestled with the many decisions** that are made throughout the process.
- » Most children will need help with their project but **it is very important that your child is hands-on** when conducting their research and experiments. This will benefit them in the end. **Coaching is the correct model to follow!**
- » Your child may have time in class to work on their project; however, you should expect that **some of the work will need to be done at home**.
- » When your child’s project is completed and their report written, it is time to start practicing for the presentation. **Practice makes perfect** so ask your child to present their project to you and maybe the whole family. The more your child practices their presentation the more comfortable they will be in front of the judges.
- » Lastly, **be supportive of your child as much as possible**. Try to attend the science fair and praise them for their active role in their project.

