

## DEAR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS,

Your child's teacher has elected to participate in the California Invention Convention program. The California Invention Convention program provides students in grades K-12 an interactive and interdisciplinary opportunity to use the invention process to create and pitch an original product at a statewide Convention. Students will build their critical-thinking and entrepreneurial skills. Qualifying projects may even compete in the National Invention Convention and the Global Invention Convention.

It is our hope that the California Invention Convention will bring together problem-solvers, inventors and entrepreneurs of all ages, backgrounds, and disciplines.

This letter outlines the important things to know about the process and convention as you support your child this year.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher. Thank you for your support!

### Events:

- **Local Invention Convention:** Your child's teacher will incorporate invention learning into the classroom, culminating in a local invention convention at your school or local hub.
- **Regional California Invention Convention:** Qualifying projects from California schools will be invited to present their projects to their peers and a panel of judges at a Regional California Invention Convention usually mid-April.
- **National Invention Convention:** Students who do well at California Invention Convention may be invited to participate at the National Invention Convention, held late May, early June at The Henry Ford.

### Student Eligibility

Participating students must:

- Be in grades K-12.
- Compete at their local invention convention.
- Be nominated by educator or school to compete at a Regional California Invention Convention.
- Compete as an individual or on a team (no more than four members). Teams may compete against individuals and vice versa.

### How to Compete

Students will develop an invention that tries to solve a problem in their life, the life of a loved one or their world. Students will develop, test, and then pitch their project at the convention.

#### Invention Log

- Students use the Invention Log/journal to document their journey. It should not be just a report done after the fact.
- Invention Logs need to document all aspects of the invention process: identifying, understanding, ideating, designing, building, testing, and refining.

#### Display Board

- Students will need to create a visual display (trifold poster board) to compete in all events. A PDF of the pictures of the Display Board and/or completed Display Presentation may be required for Regional and National events..
- The display should communicate significant aspects of the invention process.

#### Prototype/Model

- Students should create a model that demonstrates the key characteristics that make the invention valuable, usable, and unique.
- Prototype does not have to be fully functioning.

#### Video

- California and National Invention Convention require students to record and submit a 4-6 minute unedited and continuous video of students describing the invention.

### Your role

As a parent, your role is to support your child as he or she learns the invention process and develops his or her own invention. It is important to note that outside assistance and collaboration is acceptable as long as the student is driving the process and documents outside help.