ANDERSON MILL ELEMENTARY

Science Fair Packet

Important Dates	
Tuesday, March 10	All projects are due for judging
Wednesday, March 11	Science Fair Judging (outside judges come in)
Friday, March 13	AMES Science Fair Winners Announced
Friday, March 27	Elementary Exhibition: (1st-5th grades) Projects can be set up in the Hodge from 4:00-5:30 pm. The showcase and activities will be held from 5:30-7 pm.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Science Fair time is just around the corner! Our AMES Science Fair will be held on Tuesday, March 10th and 1st - 3rd place winners in each category can take their projects to be displayed at the Regional Science Fair Showcase that is held at USC Upstate on Friday, March 27th.

This year, boards will not be provided by the school. Students will need to provide their own boards if they choose to participate. Boards can be purchased from businesses such as Wal-Mart, Target, Dollar General, Michaels, Hobby Lobby, etc.

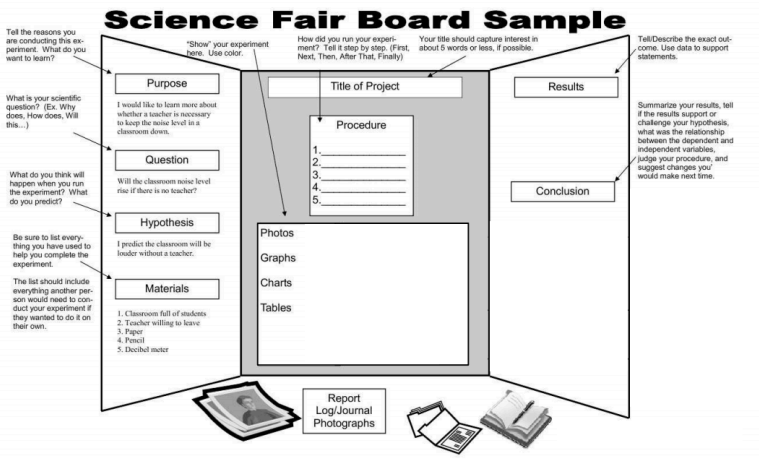
Science Fair projects must be turned in to Anderson Mill Elementary by Tuesday, March 10th to be included in the judging. Projects will be tagged, categorized, and displayed within the school. A panel of outside judges will come in and judge the projects on Wednesday.

Thank you,

AMES Science Committee

Websites to Assist You

- www.cdli.ca/sciencefairs
- www.all-science-fair-projects.com
- www.yoursciencefairprojects.com
- www.sciencebuddies.org
- www.sciencemadesimple.com
- www.education.com/science-fair
- www.need.org/sciencefair



The biggest rule oversight we have seen pertains to the display board.

- If you include photos in your project, **you may not show faces** in the photographs.
- Please refrain from writing or posting your name on the front of the board. **Student names should be written in the center section on the back of the board.**
- Brand names and/or product logos should not be included anywhere in the project. They should simply be listed as Brand "A", Brand "B", Brand "C", etc. (Examples: Yeti, Ozark, Frosted Flakes, Raisin Bran, Bounty, Sparkle, Charmin, Quilted Northern, etc.)
- Please also refrain from sending in display projects that go with your science fair boards. It is best just to include a photo on your board so that items are not misplaced or damaged during the display time.

Scientific Categories

Science projects will be classified according to the 6 categories listed below. First, second, and third place will be recognized in each of the 6 categories. Of those winners, an Overall 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will then be awarded. Winners' names will be submitted to USC Upstate Piedmont Region III Science Fair coordinator, and those students will receive additional information regarding that showcase.

Scientific Categories:

- Behavioral and Social Sciences
- Biology
    - Environmental Sciences
    - Medicine and Health Sciences
    - Plant Sciences
    - Microbiology
    - Animal Sciences
    - Cellular and Molecular Biology
- Chemistry
    - Biochemistry
- Computer Science
    - Math
- General Science
    - Earth and Planetary Science
    - Engineering: Electrical and Mechanical
    - Engineering: Materials and Bioengineering
    - Environmental Management
    - Energy and Transportation
- Physics
    - Astronomy

A list of sample topics and project ideas by category can be found by visiting the following link:

http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/science_project_ideas.php

Judges' Score Card for Elementary and Middle School Projects

1. Scientific Thought – The Problem **(10 Points)**
   - Is the project title in question format or imply a question to be answered?
   - Is the problem/purpose clearly and concisely stated?
   - Is there a comprehensive review of related research included?
   - Is the hypothesis based upon the review of related research and stated in "If…then" format?

2. Scientific Thought – The Design **(10 Points)**
   - Are the procedures listed, appropriate, logical, organized, and thorough?
   - Are the materials appropriate and listed in a way that the project can be replicated?
   - Do the project procedures demonstrate a long-term commitment by using multiple trials?
   - Does the project use and identify the manipulating/responding and/or dependent/independent variables correctly?
   - Does the project specify the control and experimental groups used?

3. Scientific Thought – The Results **(10 Points)**
   - Does the project show the results of multiple trials? (3 or more)
   - Are the results accurate and complete?
   - Are the data tables and graphs accurately identified and labeled?
   - If needed, are the results of individual trials and averages included?
   - Is an interpretation of the tables and graphs included?
   - Is there a discussion/summary of the results?
   - Does the project show considerable time commitment in the objective analysis of the results?

4. Scientific Thought – The Conclusions **(10 Points)**
   - Are the conclusions based upon the stated hypothesis and results?
   - Does the project show considerable time commitment in the interpretive analysis of the results?
   - Do the conclusions address the following: The status of the hypothesis after the study.
   - Practical applications. What was learned? How the present study relates to earlier studies cited in the review of related research? Sources of error and limitations. Suggestions for improvement. Suggestions for future studies.

5. Scientific Thought – The Concepts, Ideas, and Principles **(10 Points)**
   - Are the scientific concepts, ideas, and principles clearly developed, explained and used correctly?
   - Are the scientific concepts, ideas, and principles appropriate for the student's grade level?

6. Acknowledgements/References **(10 Points)**
   - Does the student clearly show use of related research and prior studies?
   - Is a bibliography of necessary references listed and available?
   - Has the student acknowledged help they received from others?
   - Are acknowledgements clearly stated?

7. Creative Ability **(10 Points)**
   - Does the project show original thinking or a unique approach?
   - Does it demonstrate ideas arrived at by the student?

8. Thoroughness & Clarity **(10 Points)**
   - Does the project tell a complete story?
   - Does it explain what the student did and learned?
   - Does the project show considerable time commitment overall?
   - Are all parts of the project presented in a logical order? (Top middle – Title; from left to right - purpose, review of related research, hypothesis, procedures, materials, results, discussion of results, conclusions, and acknowledgements/bibliography).

9. Dramatic Value **(10 Points)**
   - Are all parts of the project attractive and neatly done?
   - Is the font size and style easy to read?
   - Does it catch your attention? Do you really want to look at the project further?
   - Are illustrations and/or photographs used appropriately?
   - Is proper emphasis given to the most important ideas?

10. Technical Skill **(10 Points)**
    - Does the project show good craftsmanship by the student? (Legibility, Layout, etc.)
    - Is the written and presented material both organized and accurate?

Has the student used correct grammar and punctuation? Have computer-generated text, graphs, tables, illustrations been used correctly?
Totals (out of 100)