Selecting a STEM Fair Topic for our CMIT Elementary School Fair!

Getting started is always the most difficult part of a STEM fair project. However, start by listing things that interest you. Finding something that interest you will ensure that you are passionate about your project. Once you have a topic and a question, the rest of the project is just a matter of following the scientific method.

The easiest way to select a topic that you will commit to is to research a question you genuinely want answered. Remember, you can ask different people for help; you have teachers, parents, other students, books, and the internet. With all these resources, it should be fairly easy to come up with questions about your topic.

This comes to the next step of asking a TESTABLE question. Keep in mind you don't have a lot of time, and may not have a lot of equipment. Ask simple questions and then build upon them if you like where you are going with the project. If you aren't sure how you would test your question, or if you would need more advanced equipment than everyday items, ask your science or Ecology teacher.

Below is a worksheet which may also be helpful in organizing your thoughts. Look at the world around you, it is full of science. If you select something that interest you, this project should be fun. Try your best!

***Draft topics are due to teachers by November 15th.

Selecting A Science Project Topic

Step #1

List some things that interests you or questions you have. Items may include hobbies, sports, school subjects, people in STEM (K-2 ONLY) that interest you. Think about when you are free to focus purely on your interests.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List 3 science topics or world or local problems that interest you.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List 3 occupations you may consider as an adult.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Step #2

Pick one item from each of the lists above. Ask yourself questions about each topic. Be sure these are questions you would really like to know the answers to. Is there something annoying or that doesn't work very well? Are there changes that could be made to make your interest more efficient or enjoyable? What problems exist and could you find solutions? Create testable questions. My questions are:

1. _____
   _____
2. _____
   _____
3. _____
   _____

STEP #3

Now decide which question interests you the most. In choosing your topic, be sure to not take on more than you can handle. Narrow it down, take an in-depth look at a single aspect of the problem that interests you. Tackle something that hasn't been done over and over again.

THE TOPIC AND QUESTION THAT I WILL TRY TO ANSWER IS:

_____

_____

_____

***remember: your project must involve actual experimentation (**unless in K-2**). It can be a report on a person in STEM, a report on a STEM occupation, or a model if the student is in K-2nd grade ONLY. Transform your mind into a scientist!