Taking the "FEAR" out of ScienE FAiR*

* Everything about holding a school science fair you didn’t want to know and was afraid someone would tell you.
Science Fairs Are Not Hard

• DON'T PANIC! (Even if you have never held a science fair before, there are people who can help you. That’s why I’m here.)

• Put together a committee (divide and conquer)
• choose a date (no later than the end of March to participate in the county-wide fair)
• choose a place (cafeteria, gym, library, your backyard) and make arrangements for displacement (gym outdoors or in classrooms, eat lunch in the classroom for a couple of days, etc.)
• establish a budget (you need your principal for this one)
• order backboards and ribbons (catalogs have been included in this packet)
• arrange for judges, refreshments for day of the fair (do this as soon as possible)
• schedule and publicize an evening open house for the night of science fair
• construct a reasonable timeline (see examples)
• establish rules and regulations (should follow county guidelines)
• communicate with teachers—you need them on board
• consider holding a parent night to introduce the project and educate parents (I can help with this, too)
• Put together/distribute materials (parent/student packet and classroom lessons—examples provided)
• Use the lessons in the packet for teaching the scientific method to your students. Space the lessons to correspond to each piece as it is due on the timeline.

• encourage teachers to follow-up on student progress (Science Fair should be taught)
The Day Before The Fair

• try to arrange for substitute coverage to be free to set up the fair
• have a plan for set-up and communicate to teachers
The Day Of The Fair

• have help to set up refreshments, greet judges etc.
• keep yourself free to facilitate judging
• total score sheets, record winners, communicate winners to office for end-of-day announcements, assign helpers to place ribbons and/or certificates on projects
• evening open house/viewing of projects
The Day After The Fair

• students clear their projects from the area as soon as possible (a schedule helps)
• take the afternoon off—you deserve it
Parts of a Science Fair Project

- Question
- Hypothesis
- Materials

- Procedure
- Results
- Conclusion
Scoring Projects

Projects may be awarded a total of 50 points, 5 points for each of the ten following parts of the project:
Overall Appearance and Organization of the Backboard:

• All parts of project are included, clearly labeled, and in sequential order. (Question, prediction, materials, procedure, results, conclusion)

• Backboard is neat and attractive
Question:

- Question led to an investigation, not a report, demonstration or model.
- A creative approach to problem solving was used to formulate the question.
Prediction:

• Prediction must state a possible outcome of the experiment with an accompanying explanation.
• A research paper is present showing research was done prior to predicting.
Materials and Procedure - Experimental Design:

- Independent, dependent, and controlled variables are correctly identified and listed.
- Adequate data were collected through repeated trials to justify the conclusion.
- Appropriate sample size was used to support a conclusion (as necessitated by project.)
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Results - Graphic Representation:

- Data are present in the form of a table with appropriate labels and title.
- An appropriate type of graph is accurately constructed (scale, labels, and title) from the data on the data table.
Results - Written Explanation:

• Explanation analyzes and summarizes the data to note patterns and trends.
• Explanation interprets the graph.
Conclusion:

- Conclusion answers original question being investigated.
- A statement reflecting whether the prediction was supported or not is included.
- Supporting data are referenced.
- Additional questions to investigate are presented.
Interview - Understanding:

• Student is able to explain the investigation in a way that demonstrates clear understanding.
Interview – Application:
Student is able to...
• relate findings of project to a real world situation.
• identify career connections.
• generate ideas for future research.