

Grade Eight Science Fair Information

Dear Parent(s) and Student:

Attached you will find the science fair information that will be used during the grading process for Grade Eight at Clark-Shaw Magnet School. Please review these forms with your student and return the bottom of this form to your science teacher. Pay special attention to the SF rubric as it is different from earlier grade levels at Clark. These changes assure the continued development of our students relative to exploring scientific methods while enhancing their critical thinking.

Science Fair projects are **required** of all middle school students at Clark-Shaw Magnet School. Failure to complete a project may result in a failing grade in science for 3rd quarter and will adversely affect the student's science grade during 1st and 2nd quarters as well. The math and language arts components of the project will also affect grades in those classes.

Policy for ALL SCIENCE FAIR COMPONENTS AND THE FINAL BOARD/PROJECT as follows:

Late Work Policy:

One-day late: Deduction 50 pts (exceptions at teacher's discretion) 50/100

Two-days late or beyond: Student will receive a zero on that component (exceptions at teacher's discretion) 0/100

...we will accept a component and/or the Final Project ONE day late with a 50% reduction in grade and we will not accept them after that...an exception may occur on an individual basis at teacher's discretion

We will NOT make copies of project components and students are NOT allowed to make copies in the Library on the day a project component is due. Be sure to print extra copies of the components that are needed for math and language classes.

The Clark Library will sell display boards and accessories. More information will be available at a later date.

Thank you,

Clark-Shaw Science Department

-----Detach at the dashed line and return the completed portion to your student's science teacher-----

Date _____

I have read and discussed the attached science fair forms with my student. We both understand the information, and I will contact his/her science teacher if any questions or concerns develop during the experimental process.

Student Name (Print) _____ (Signature) _____

Parent/Guardian (Print) _____ (Signature) _____

Grade Eight Science Fair Information

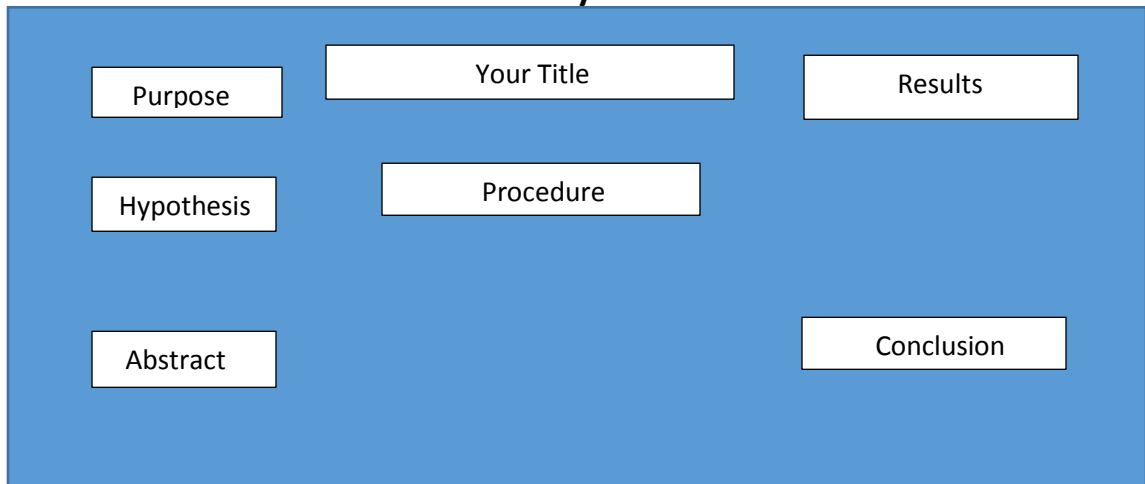
Science Fair Project Restrictions

- Middle School students will not attempt projects using the following:
 - Vertebrate animals—fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, their parts, tissues or blood
 - Recombinant DNA
 - Pathogenic agents
 - Controlled substances—including alcohol, steroids, drugs, etc.
 - Growing bacteria or fungi
 - Humans—other than simple observation without contact or identification
 - Fire, flammable materials, and anything potentially hazardous
- No live organisms, including plants may be exhibited at the fair. Projects involving the use of live organisms may display photographs, drawings, charts, or graphs to illustrate conditions, developments, and results of investigation.
- Other items that will not be displayed at the fair:
 - Taxidermy specimens or parts
 - Preserved vertebrate or invertebrate animals
 - Human/animal parts or body fluids
 - Food of any sort
 - Sharp items (knives, needles, etc.)
 - Flammable materials
 - Laboratory/household chemicals
 - Glass containers
 - Anything potentially hazardous or offensive
 - Batteries with open tops or bare electrical wires
 - Open flames
 - Exposed knife switches
 - Poisons, drugs, controlled substances
 - Photos that would allow identification of persons
 - Liquid, including water-filled containers-photographs of apparatuses are preferred to the apparatuses themselves
- Under NO circumstances will firearms of any kind be allowed in our fair

Grade Eight Science Fair Information

- I. Display board—Reads like a book: Top Left ↓; Top Middle ↓; Top Right ↓(see diagram below)
- Title: Should be on Title Board (Related to topic; can be “catchy”)
 - Purpose: Left side, top
 - Hypothesis; Left side, middle
 - Abstract; Left side, bottom *Summary essay—remember to print 4 copies of abstract; one copy for display board, one copy for your science teacher, one copy for your English teacher, and one copy for your math component
 - Procedure; Middle section, below title (includes materials list, photos of experiment in progress, bulleted description of the steps of your experiment, etc.) **BY FOLLOWING YOUR PROCEDURE, YOUR EXPERIMENTAL PROCESS SHOULD BE REPEATABLE**
 - Results: Right side, top (Summary paragraph plus at least one graph that best represents results of experiment; make sure it has a title, labeled axes, and metric units—remember to print two copies of graph in color: one copy for display board and one copy for math component
 - Conclusion: Right side, bottom
 - Font size should be at least 22 for board components
 - Check for neatness, correct spelling and grammar **NO STAPLES!**
 - Must have photos with captions showing your personal timeline—**NOTE ON YOUR BOARD THAT ALL OF THE PICTURES WERE TAKEN BY YOU, THE STUDENT**
 - Be certain that the photos do not allow you to be identified
 - Place a title page (from your abstract) on the back of the display board in the center section
 - Log book should be kept from the beginning of the process until the completion-it should be turned in with the board and draped over the middle section
 - Board must be the regulation size of 36” by 48” tri-fold project display board

General Layout



- II. Abstract—a summative essay that describes your project
- Title page (center the following information on the page: Project Title, Student’s Name, Class/Subject, Teacher’s Name, Class Period, and Date) **BE SURE TO HAVE THE APPROPRIATE TEACHER AND SUBJECT AREA FOR EACH ABSTRACT**
 - Use block paragraph form—do NOT use paragraph headings
 - Write in 3rd person, past tense (NO I, we, me, etc.)
 - NO LONGER** than 250 words (one page, single-spaced body, double-space between block paragraphs)

Grade Eight Science Fair Information

- III. Presentation—Practice at home first!
 - a. Time should be between 4-7 minutes for 8th graders
 - b. Describe everything on the display board
 - c. Describe your experimental apparatus and/or photos of the experiment in progress
 - d. Speak loudly, clearly, with correct pronunciation and grammar, facing your audience
 - e. DO NOT CHEW GUM OR READ THE BOARD
- IV. Log Book—must be kept and turned in along with display board
 - a. A log book is your recording document for the entire experimental process, from beginning to end
 - b. Should include Experimental Procedure
 - c. Should include both qualitative and quantitative data collected during the entire course of the experiment. Data should be in metric units. Date and time each entry. If data is obtained outside be certain to document weather conditions
 - d. Should include any and all observations made while doing the experiment (qualitative data)—date and time each entry
 - e. Title on log book must match project title on display board—NO NAME(S) SHOULD BE VISIBLE ANYWHERE ON THE LOG BOOK

NOTE: The decision to enter the project in the school science fair will be made by the student and the teacher at the time of the science fair presentation in the classroom. Those who choose to participate will select a category for his/her project to be judged from the following list:

Behavioral and Social Sciences	Engineering	Medicine & Health
Botany	Environmental Science	Physical Science
Chemistry	Math & Computer Science	Zoology

Grade Eight Science Fair Information

GRADING RUBRIC FOR GRADE 8 SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT

Name _____ Period _____ Order# _____

Project Title _____

Display Board Due Date: _____ (8th grade)

Submitted on: _____ Date of Presentation: January _____

Plan to enter science fair: Yes _____ No _____ Category/Science Fair _____

DISPLAY BOARD: 100 Test Points

Title Page (attached to middle-back of display board)/Title on Title Board	0	3	5
Purpose (the problem, what was tested, how/why <i>you</i> selected the topic)	0	5	10
Hypothesis (expectations based on cited, scientific research; <i>NOT common knowledge</i>)	0	5	10
Abstract (refer to Abstract Rubric on back of sheet/minimum 22 font on display board)	0	5	10
Procedure (experiment, materials used/steps taken/state independent, dependent variable & number of times tested)	0	10	20
<i>OBSERVER SHOULD BE ABLE TO REPEAT PROCESS WITH YOUR PROCEDURE</i>			
Trial manipulated variable tested- MINIMUM OF TEN TIMES	0	10	15
Results (must include graph & summary paragraph) <i>Summary paragraph to include stated relationship between independent/dependent variable</i>	0	5	10
Conclusion (facts learned/relates results to purpose/extends results to hypothesis)	0	5	10
<i>Photos with captions</i> showing your personal timeline (avoid personal identity) Include disclaimer that ALL photos taken by student	0	5	10

/100

****FONT SHOULD BE AT LEAST 22 FOR BOARD COMPONENTS--INCREASE HEADER SIZE TO SCALE**
PLEASE REFER TO BOARD DIAGRAM ORDER IN SCIENCE FAIR PACKET**

PRESENTATION: 100 Test Points

Time (4-7 minutes for 7 th & 8 th graders)	0	5	10	15
			End	_____
			Begin	_____
			Total	_____
Demonstrates Subject Knowledge:				
Describes all board components	0	5	10	15
Explains experiment/process	0	5	10	15
Science content responses (must support information)	0	5	10	15
Displays Presentation Etiquette (speaking tone/grammar/pronunciation/audience awareness)	0	5	10	30

/100

*******DO NOT CHEW GUM OR READ BOARD*******

Grade Eight Science Fair Information

Name _____ Period _____ Order # _____

Project Title _____

LOG BOOK: 100 Test Points **A notebook of your experimental process******

Experimental Procedure (materials list & steps of experiment) [<i>Your written</i> explanation of the entire process, starting with materials list and continuing through end of procedure]	0 5 10 15 20
Data collected during the entire course of the experiment. [Include metric units of measurement, date and time]	0 5 10 15 25
Pictures (with explanation) that displays timeline of entire experimental process	0 15 20 25 30
All observations were recorded. Entries include date and time.	0 5 10 15 20
Title on front of log book matches title on display board.	0 5
	/100

ABSTRACT: 100 Test Points **A summative essay that describes your project******

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Block Paragraphs • Third Person • Past Tense | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double-space between paragraphs • Single-space body • No Headings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Page • Maximum 250 words |
|---|--|---|

Title Page (Project Title, Student Name, Class/Subject, Teacher Name, Period, and Date)	0 5 10
Purpose (the problem, what was tested, how/why <i>you</i> selected the topic)	0 5 10 15
Hypothesis (expectations based on cited, scientific research; <i>NOT common knowledge</i>)	0 5 10 15 20
Experiment (includes procedure, what was being measured, and the # of times tested)	0 5 10 15 20
Results (includes a summary of outcome, a noted data trend after experimentation)	0 5 10 15 20
Conclusion (includes facts learned, interpretation of results related to the purpose & the hypothesis)	0 5 10 15
	/100

*****CHECK FOR SPELLING, GRAMMAR ERRORS, NEATNESS*****

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THIS RUBRIC FORM IS DIFFERENT FOR GRADE EIGHT. ALTHOUGH WE STRIVE FOR CONSISTENCY AS A DEPARTMENT, WE AGREE THAT THIS IS A PROCESS WITH INCREASING RIGOR AND EXPECTATIONS.

Display Board: _____/100
Presentation: _____/100
Abstract: _____/100
Log Book _____/100
TOTAL: _____/400