

January 11, 2019

Dear Parents,

The Thacher **Science Fair is on Thursday, March 7th, 2019**. We have spent time in class talking about the Science Fair.

Fourth-grade students will experience their first science fair. The scientific method will be explained in class. Students are given directions to experiment at home. The aim is to teach how to design a controlled experiment. Students will be taught how to generate a hypothesis, control variables, organize data in charts and graphs, and write a conclusion. The final lab is completed at home.

Fifth through eighth-grade students have been asked to start brainstorming ideas. There are books available in the Thacher library and in the science classroom. Also, there are many websites they can explore.

Fifth through eighth-grade students work on their projects outside of class and complete the lab and presentation board at home. Before they begin working on their project, both parent and science teacher must approve it.

AP students can find the rubric & due dates on Google Classroom.

All projects should use the following steps:

Step 1	Student chooses a project
Step 2	Parent approves project & sends email (sfitzgerald@thacherschool.org)
Step 3	Student receives approval from science teacher
Step 4	Student begins experiment at home and records data
Step 5	Student types or writes neatly the final lab, including all of the sections outlined on the attached page.
Step 6	Student puts the lab on a display board along with drawings and/or photos
Step 7	Student practices presentation for judges, classmates and parents

Lab Format

Introduction	Background information on the topic (Suggested for 6 th - 8 th grade)
Purpose	The question being answered or the reason for doing the experiment
Procedure	Outline of the steps of the experiment ("recipe")
Apparatus or Materials	A list, pictures or drawings of equipment and materials
Hypothesis	An educated guess made prior to experimenting.
Observations	A record of all data which may include a journal, pictures, graphs, charts and tables
Conclusion	Results and Explanation
References	Sources for all information (Suggested for 6 th – 8 th grade)

Thacher's Science Fair is a non-competitive event. Students do not receive ranks. The goal is that students show an understanding of their topic and the experimental process. Judges will give comments and feedback to students.

I am looking for volunteers to judge, so please contact me if you are interested or can recommend a science "expert". I am looking forward to an exciting Science Fair this year. I have enjoyed running many previous Fairs and am always pleasantly surprised at how much everyone involved learns!

Sincerely,
Sally Boyd Fitzgerald
Science Teacher