

# Sussex Academy Science Fair

Dear Phoenix parents and students,

Science fair is a very important part of our science course at Sussex Academy. All students are required to participate in the school wide science fair, held this year on **April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015**. The science fair project helps students to meet Delaware Science Standard #1, Nature and Application of Science and Technology. While there is judging of the final product, all students will gain a tremendous insight into how scientists actually use scientific techniques to investigate a real problem. Nearly all work for the science fair project is done at home.

In order to help your child stay on track with their project, please refer to the time line. These step-by-step dates will help students avoid waiting until the last minute. I require parent signatures on informational sheets that will precede each deadline. While I may have to change a due date slightly to accommodate unforeseen scheduling conflicts, the general timeline will remain the same.

**Students will need to provide a separate 1 inch 3 ring binder** with page protectors and loose-leaf paper. This binder will be his/her journal to keep ALL information that is distributed. It will also include progress information, data, graphs, pictures, etc. about their project. Judges will see this binder, so it should be kept neat.

The step-by-step assignments that students turn in will be graded and I will give feedback; students are expected to make changes toward their final product. They will receive a separate larger final grade. **Students must keep ALL rough drafts in their binder.**

**Please note that it is the STUDENT, not the parent, who is expected to complete this project and therefore show mastery of the science standards.** Encourage your child to stick to the timeline, supervise and provide for his/her safety during the experiment, and provide any additional materials for your student to assemble a final display. Enjoy the process with your child, not for your child.

The first step is to select a problem (or question). This is **due no later than Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 2014**. It should be interesting to the student and something that he/she wants to find out more about. It should NOT be just building something, but rather involve investigating the relationship between variables. We have discussed independent and dependent variables in class this year. I will provide what is and is not a science fair project, some helpful tips, and websites. If students are not sure about their problem, they may rank a couple of problems and I will provide feedback about which one may be the best "project". No duplication of projects is allowed, so projects are assigned on a first come, first-served basis.

**STUDENTS ARE NOT TO PROCEED WITH DOING THEIR EXPERIMENTS UNTIL I HAVE GIVEN APPROVAL OF THE PROCEDURE!!** (DON'T SHOP FOR MATERIALS YET!) We will go step by step, following the scientific method, and doing the actual experiment does not actually occur until February. Sussex Academy will provide a tri-fold display board for the end product.

Together we can make science fair is a fun, learning experience for our young scientists!  
If you have any questions feel free to contact me at [elaine.maggioli@saas.k12.de.us](mailto:elaine.maggioli@saas.k12.de.us)

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parent's signature

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child's name (please print)

**\*\*This signed letter goes in a sheet protector in the 1" science fair binder: Due 12-1-14**