

Parent Information for Science Fair “Science is looking at the world and asking...”

City Science Fair: (Date changes with Regional Fair)

Entry form due two (2) weeks before fair to: Mr. David Emery, ETHOS, 1127 Miles Ave. Elkhart, IN 46514.

Setup: the Friday before the fair, 3:30 – 7:00 P.M. Do not come earlier as Memorial students need to be able to exit.

Judging Times (approx. times):

K-2... 9:00 A.M. – 9:50 A.M. 6 - 8 . 10:40 A.M. – 11:25 A.M.

3- 5 .. 9:50 A.M. – 10:35 A.M. 9-12 . 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Students must be present during the judging.

Projects can be removed from Memorial between

4:15 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. (Tables are removed at 6:00 P.M.)

Awards Ceremony: 4:30 – 5:15 P.M.

Who can enter? Any student attending school within the area of the Elkhart Community School District may enter the city fair. Students must turn in a completed entry form before the deadline and submit a science project. An exhibit may be entered only if a teacher or principal recommends it. Projects can usually be defined as one of three types: simple models, demonstrations, and experiments.

Types of Projects: (Simple information posters not accepted)

Projects are normally rated by degree of difficulty with an experiment rating highest and model rating lowest

- K-2: Model, Demonstration, or Experiment
 - A simple model normally shows the main item being studied and may include a listing of its parts and/or written explanation of how it works.
 - Demonstrations show how a known scientific principle works or why it happens. This includes the manipulation of a model or equipment by the student. In the case of a demonstration, the student knows what the outcome will be and does not attempt to alter the outcome by changing any part of the demonstration.
- 3-12 (Minimum for 1st place)
 - Experiment with Abstract—An experiment involves the manipulation of equipment in order to prove or disprove a hypothesis. The student will repeatedly change one aspect of their procedure in order to measure the result of this change. An experiment may have evolved from a demonstration, yet has had one part altered so that the outcome is not known to the student. This is the preferred type of project for all K-12 students, because the students use the scientific method for solving problems. An abstract is a simple written description of: what they wanted to find out, scientifically, what they did, and what they did find out based on data. For more information see their website.
 - DISPLAYS: All work is to be completed at home and data tables and photos brought to fair. NO living materials, no glass, no chemicals including water, and no extra display equipment. These rules are from the international and state science fair organizations and are for the public safety.

Group Projects: GROUP PROJECTS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED IN THE CITY FAIR. Group projects may be entered in Grades K through 5 and may have no more than two students involved. Only one entry form need be submitted and only one space will be provided at the fair. Group projects are eligible for ribbons but not for special awards.

Awards: First, second, third, and participant ribbons will be awarded in each of the following levels: Primary (K-2), Intermediate (3-5), Junior (6-8), and Senior (9-12). Special awards will be given to the top projects in each of the 12 scientific divisions.

Exhibitors must be present during judging.

Parents wait in the area outside the judging area to ensure impartial judging. Scoring will be on work done by the exhibitors and their 3-minute discussion with the judges, not on the value of accessory equipment which has been borrowed or purchased. Criteria for judgment will be based on creative ability and scientific thought. Students are sent back to their parents and may leave. Some projects are so good that a second judging team will talk to those students. To do so, judges may further interview some or all of the exhibitors. Decisions by the judges will be final and the judging sheets are not available to exhibitors after the fair. Suggestion sheets are left by the projects by the judges.

Open House: The fair is open for public viewing starting at 1:00 P.M. The Awards Ceremony will be at 4:30 P.M. and will last about 45 minutes. Projects must be removed immediately after the Awards Ceremony. The rented tables must be returned and the gym made available for the high school classes on Monday morning. **Any projects left will be discarded.**

Northern Indiana Regional Sci. & Engineering Fair (NIRSEF)

The regional fair only allows a limited number of participants. Our city science fair acts as a clearinghouse to determine which of our many fine student projects will be allowed to compete at the regional level. The regional fair accepts only students currently in the 3rd grade through the 12th grade. Those students in Grades K-2 will have to wait.

Because of our limited quota of students, we are not able to send every blue ribbon winner. Those invited to the regional fair will receive an information packet with their award at the award ceremony.

Those students who qualify for the regional science fair must complete the entry form online based on the information they received at the city science fair, Regional Science Fair entry information will be distributed during the Awards Ceremony of the Elkhart Area Science Fair. The regional science fair is held at Notre Dame’s Stepan Center.

(NOTE: Parents should be aware that because of the limited space within Stepan Center, **the regional science fair does not allow any parents in the center during judging** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students must stay with their projects during this time. They may bring a lunch or purchase food within Stepan Center.)