Fourth Annual St. Ann's Academy
SCIENCE FAIR

Dear Parents,

We are excited to announce that St. Ann's Academy will be holding its fourth annual science fair on 3/29/17. **Students in grades 1-6 are invited to submit a project that will be done at home,** while students in Kindergarten and Pre-K will be doing a group project in their classrooms.

NEW: Our format is a little different this year! In the past, we have required students to do an experiment using the scientific method. This year, we are allowing students to choose from two different project types:

1. A science EXPERIMENT using the scientific method
2. A science DEMONSTRATION

Alfred State College Science Fair: Students in grades 4-6 may enter their project into both our science fair and the Alfred State College Science Fair. The date of the ASC fair is 4/21/17. More details can be found here: http://www.alfredstate.edu/science-fair Your child needs to let Mrs. Bradley know by March 10th if they would like to be entered. She will review their project to ensure it meets ASC standards and will help them with the registration process. Please note: If your child wishes to participate in the ASC fair, they will need transportation to and from Alfred that day.

About our Science Fair

Science fairs are a fun way for children to learn about a science topic of their choosing. The goal is for students to have a positive and safe experience. Students will display and share their projects at the SAA Open House/Science Fair on **Wednesday, March 29, 2017**.

Parent and family support is fundamental to the success of this fair. Since the projects will be done at home, we expect that you will assist your child. Please keep in mind, though, that your child should be actively involved in the task, and depending on age, should be doing as much of the actual work as is reasonable. Ideally, the parents' main role should be to offer guidance and supervision, and to assist with the final display (typing, etc.). You could also take photos of your child performing the experiment – these could be used in the final display. ***If you have multiple children, they may do individual projects or they may do a single project together as a team.***

Science Fair Rules

1. Your child should do EITHER a science experiment using the *scientific method* OR a science demonstration (an explanation of both can be found on page 2).
2. Do not use dangerous substances.
3. Displays should be prepared so that they can stand freely on tables. Student displays should be no wider than 48". Walmart usually carries 3-panel display boards.
4. If the experiment involves animals, students are encouraged to take photos or diagram the experiment results. Animals may not be brought to the Science Fair. Be sure not to harm or frighten any animals during the experiment.
5. Parents should help students select a project that can be done with minimal assistance. Parents should provide oversight and act as a resource, but the students should do as much of the work as possible. It is okay for parents to help with typing assistance or display preparation assistance, particularly for younger students. Students will be expected to explain their projects to our judges.
6. Students should bring their completed displays to school the morning of 3/29/17. Judging will take place that afternoon. Winners will be announced at Open House.
7. Judging will be done by non-parent SAA Board members and/or outside guest judges.
8. Students will be placed and judged in their current SAA academic groups. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will be chosen in each group. Everyone will receive a participation award (note: family team projects will be judged in the group that the oldest child belongs to).

Getting Started

If this is the first time you or your child has participated in a science fair, your first questions may be, "What is the scientific method?" "What is a demonstration?" "How do we put together a display board?" "Where can we get ideas for experiments?" A quick Google search should give plenty of results, but here are a few recommended websites to get you started (these links are also available on our website: saacademy.org/ScienceFair.htm).

For an explanation of the scientific method:

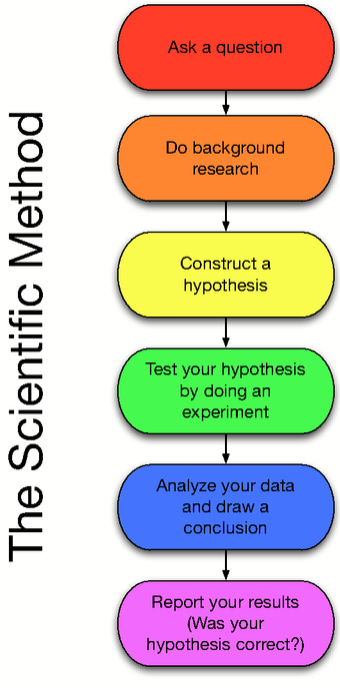
- http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_scientific_method.shtml
- https://sciencebob.com/science-fair-ideas/the-scientific-method/

For information on how to build a display board:

- saacademy.org/ScienceFairBoards.htm

For project ideas:

- www.sciencebuddies.org/
- www.education.com/science-fair/
- http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/
- https://sciencebob.com/category/science-fair-ideas/



Should your child do a science experiment or a demonstration?

Science is all about asking questions and identifying ways to answer those questions. Have your child look at the world around him and begin asking questions.

Some questions can be answered using an **experiment**. For example: What brand of battery lasts the longest? What happens to a person's heart rate during exercise? What kinds of gum produce the biggest bubbles? If you can design an experiment to answer your question, then you should conduct a ***science experiment using the scientific method*** (see diagram at left).

Some questions can be answered by doing a **demonstration**. For example, your child may ask: How do beavers build dams? or What causes volcanoes to erupt? If this is their type of question, then they should research the topic and build a display or model to help them understand the answer. This is a ***science demonstration.***

Remember...

The point of this fair is for your child to **HAVE FUN** while learning about science. Projects like this should not be stressful or overly competitive. Our goal is to nurture scientific curiosity in our students and teach them to observe and investigate the world around them. The best way to do this is to show them that science is fun. So if you have a fantastic idea for a project that you are sure will be a "winner" but your child isn't interested in that topic, let him or her choose a different project. He or she will learn so much more if they are having fun!

If you have any questions, please contact either Jill Bradley or Penny Gray.

Have fun and good luck!

Sincerely,

SAA Teachers and Board Members