



It's Science Fair Time!

10 Helpful Tips for Teachers and Students

It seems as if a science project only develops science skills—however, that's just not the case! As students investigate, research, analyze data, and present their findings, **Common Core** language arts and math standards are practiced too. Use these tips to ready your classroom and students for the big day!

1

Is your science fair event optional? If it is, consider referring to the event as a science expo. Encourage student participation by awarding every student who follows through with a project a set amount of extra credit points. In this way, everyone's efforts are recognized.

2

To avoid surprises for students and their families, prepare a project timeline. Allow between four and eight weeks for projects to be completed. On the timeline, include reminders, encouragement, and due dates. Consider scheduling all timeline completion dates for the same day of the week.

3

Ask each student (or group) to detail every phase of a project in a journal, such as an Office Depot® Brand Wire-Bound Notebook (Item #834270). With this tip, all the material a student needs to write a report or prepare a display will be in one place!

4

Choosing a science fair topic can be a difficult decision! To get kids thinking about topic possibilities, label individual sheets of Office Depot® Brand Fluorescent Poster Board (Item #858385) with different science areas, such as geology, space, electricity, plants, weather, animals, engineering, and physics. Post the sheets around the classroom. Over the next few days, engage students in brainstorming investigative questions for each science topic.



5

Don't be shy about enlisting volunteers. Tasks for volunteers can include helping with a science demonstration, helping students develop their projects and presentations, setting up the fair, or helping manage the fair. With the extra help, you'll quickly prove one hypothesis—volunteers are a key ingredient in a successful science fair!



6

One of the best ways to help students visualize a science fair presentation board is to show them a sample or two. For a larger display board, choose Office Depot[®] Brand 72% Recycled Corrugate Display Board (Item #434415). For a smaller or more colorful display board, select Office Depot[®] Brand Sturdy Foam Board (Item #430483). Each of these trifold display boards has a larger middle section and two smaller side sections—a standard feature students may not know about.



7

Encourage students to be creative with their display board designs, but not to the point that a judge will find it difficult to read the information included. Explain that a colorful cutout or two is one way to add color and dimension to a presentation board. Using neon shapes from a pack of ArtSkills[®] Poster Board Pre-Cut Shapes (Item #978309) from Office Depot[®] is a timesaving solution.



8

For professional-looking presentation boards, encourage students to use self-adhesive letters for titles and subheads. In addition to being self-adhesive, EZ Art Peel and Stick Sheets: Letters and Numbers (Item #284775) from Office Depot[®] can be repositioned. Any spelling errors can be corrected in a snap!



9

A pre-event checklist is a helpful presentation tool for students. Include reminders such as making sure all necessary materials are at school on the day of the science fair, taking time to review the information being presented, and remembering to make eye contact and speak confidently throughout the presentation.

10

Last, but certainly not least, make your science fair fun and rewarding for students. Increasing interest in science is an important goal of any science fair.