

2023 - 2024 MCAULIFFE PTSA STEM FAIR

December 6th, 2023 | 5:30 - 8:00 PM

General Guidelines

General Information:

1. The purpose of the Fair is to recognize and celebrate STEM-related interests and talent in our student body.
2. ALL entrants will receive a participation certificate and a ribbon.
3. Entries can be submitted to one of three categories: Track 1 - Research, Track 2 - Experiment, or Track 3 - Invention. See the parameters for each category under **Entry/Exhibit Rules**.
4. All participants are required to have some sort of written data, report, or information that represents their project. Students in K-1 may dictate their report to an adult. It is not required that this information be typed.
5. Participants should carefully review the submission guidelines to ensure a rewarding experience for all!

Entry/Exhibit Rules:

1. All students in grades K-5 are eligible to participate.
2. **Track 1 - Research submissions should:**
 - a. Have a clearly identified topic within the STEM domain
 - b. Provide information and visual data related to selected topic
 - c. Include sources for any data
3. **Track 2 - Experiment submissions should:**
 - a. Develop a testable question
 - b. Perform an experiment
 - c. Report on findings
4. **Track 3 - Invention submissions should:**
 - a. Have an original design
 - b. Provide examples of usefulness or utility
 - c. Include insight into design and/or assembly process
5. All submissions must use a standard tri-fold 48" x 36" presentation board for their exhibit.
6. **Any additional components to Track 1 & 2 exhibits** must fit easily within the area directly in front of the tri-fold presentation board.
7. **Track 3 submissions** with inventions, robotics, and/or engineering components will have access to a demo area in addition to their allocated trifold presentation space.
8. All exhibits must be constructed by students at home aside from designated library resource hours.
9. **Appropriate parental involvement** looks different across the grade cohorts: a K-1 participant may require limited assistance with cutting out images for their presentation, whereas a 4-5 participant is expected to

do this independently.

10. Submission topics, ideas and/or designs are each participant's respected and celebrated contribution to our school community's STEM Fair; please ensure parental involvement is limited to age-appropriate support only. See **Appropriate Parental Involvement** for more information.
11. Students' full name, teacher, and grade must be included on the back of their tri-fold presentation board.

A Note on Appropriate Parental Involvement:

We recognize our community's rich and diverse connection to a variety of STEM-based industries; while parents are encouraged to support their child's STEM Fair participation, it is essential that the research and craftsmanship of each student's submission reflect *their own work*.

Our Challengers are creative and resourceful, and we can't wait to see what they contribute to our school's STEM Fair. Please consider using any support provided to your students as a teaching moment; if a younger student requires assistance searching the local library catalog, perhaps demonstrate the search process before encouraging them to attempt this on their own. If an older student is struggling to find credible images or sources for their research project, this might be an opportunity to teach them how to discern the difference between credible and less credible sources, and where to locate references and/or citations in a variety of publications.

Appropriate parental involvement, more than anything, includes cheering your student on! The McAuliffe school community is so excited to see their STEM Fair project come to life.

Go Challengers!



Registration forms, additional details, and STEM Fair Updates available online at <https://www.mcauliffeptsa.org/stemfair.html>

Questions? Contact us at: STEMFair@mcauliffeptsa.org