

Chester Science Fair for Kindergarteners

We write to you today to invite you and your children to become involved in the Chester Science Fair on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at Black River Middle School (BRMS).

We know that your child is already a budding scientist, as he/she has done experiments with Mrs. Matelsky in her Enrichment Sessions. For example, this fall, the students investigated how ultraviolet-sensitive items change color when exposed to sunlight, and made Ultraviolet Light Detectors from UV-light-sensitive beads. They asked questions like: what blocks UV light: sunglasses? sunscreen? clothing? shadows? trees? buildings? glass? It is this type of inquiry that yields a critical thinker. It is our hope, and that of the entire Chester Science Fair Community, that together we can ignite this practice of inquiry and investigation in our youngest population and inspire them to continue this process throughout their lifetime.

All the information you need can be found at www.chestersciencefair.org. A simple guide to Scientific Steps for Young Scientists is available at:

<http://www.chestersciencefair.org/content.php?id=72&l1=6&l2=1&l3=0&l4=0&l5=0>

Registration is now open and we welcome your participation. The Fair is free and open to the public. Kindergarten students may partner with other K-2 students (maximum of 3 students per project team). Last year, 29 Kindergarteners presented projects at the Fair. We hope that your child will choose to participate in this year's Fair.

Each project at the Fair is visited by a friendly Judge. Your child will have about 10 minutes to speak with the Judge, explain his/her project, and answer questions. Your child will receive a green ribbon and a pass to Liberty Science Center from their Judge. In addition, there will be an assembly at Dickerson at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 7, 2016, during which Mrs. Fair will recognize each child who participated in the Fair. During this assembly, your child will receive a blue ribbon and his/her score sheet with comments from the Fair judge. Parents are welcome to attend this assembly. It is a proud moment to share.

A Dickerson Science Fair Project can be a simple demonstration or experiment. Some popular and successful K-2 topics include: phases of the moon, shadows, volcanoes, planets, sinking and floating (buoyancy), baking, product comparisons, pet behavior, plant growth, etc. There are many resources available: visit the Dickerson Library, speak with Mrs. Matelsky, or go to Children's Room at the Chester Public Library. The best project is derived from your child's interests and observations. There is no need to create a difficult project. Most projects in this age group can be completed in an afternoon.

On Fair day, when not visiting with your assigned judge, your family can spend the day visiting the classrooms at BRMS where you can conduct hands-on experiments, meet an owl and an eagle, watch a magic show demonstrating the miracles of liquid nitrogen, and so much more! Plan to stay for lunch in our Science Café where pizza, sandwiches, and salads are offered from New York Pizza, and visit our bake sale for coffee, bagels, and desserts.

Be a part of the largest Chester community event of the year; come enjoy a day of Science! We hope to see you at the Fair! Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

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