



EXCITING OPPORTUNITY for Gateway 5th graders!

It's time! The Gateway Elementary Science Fair is quickly approaching! Participation in our school Science Fair is **mandatory** for **fifth** graders. Projects are due on **March 24th** by 8:00 am. These should be turned in to your classroom teacher. Science fair prizes will be awarded to the winners in each class. Individual winning entries with the highest scores will be entered in the District Science Fair (April 20th) at the Carolina First Center.

***ALL** 5th Grade Science Fair entries need to follow the **scientific method**. A detailed explanation of project expectations will be provided by your teacher. An **experiment** should be repeated three times. Judges will only be asked to score projects that follow the scientific method. Demonstrations are not allowed and will not be scored by judges. **ENTRIES THAT USE VOLCANOES OR THE SOLAR SYSTEM WILL NOT BE SCORED.**

*Student's first and last **name, grade level** and **teacher's name** are to be written neatly on the **back** of the display board. **Do not** have this information on the front of the display board.

Due Dates are as follows: Please submit all parts to classroom teacher.

January 22 – Project introduced to students in the Science Lab

February 3 – Idea for project due to classroom teacher. Please fill out the form on the next page and return it to your teacher on or before the 3rd of February.

February 5th – Question, Independent, Dependent, and Controlled Variables will be created in Science Lab

Begin your experiment at home! The testing should be finished on the 26th of Feb. Begin early and finish early ☺ Please do not put it off until the last minute.

February 26 – Experiment completed and Data Table is due to classroom teacher.

Work on your tables/graphs in classroom or at home this week and next.

March 3 –Graphs due to classroom teacher (rough draft).

March 5 – Bring Data table and rough draft graphs to science lab today. Mrs. Crane will print a colored version for you – Today only! You must have your rough draft turned in by today to participate.

March 10 - Conclusion due to classroom teacher. You may want to begin typing your project in class or at home. Start on it early ☺ The final project is due March 24th.

March 12 - Boards/Labels distributed to students that have paid \$5 by this date.

March 24 – All Science Fair Projects are due to classroom teachers today by 8:00 am

March 26 –Science Fair projects are judged today at Gateway during related arts. Classroom winners will then compete to find the overall school winners.

April 20 – District Competition – Winning school projects are judged at the Carolina First Center from 4:00-8:30. Selected students must attend.

April 27 – District Awards Ceremony at Roper Mountain Science Center from 7:15-8:15pm.

Science Fair Project Requirements These following guidelines should be used to complete your project:

Problem: What is the effect of _____ on _____?
(What are you trying to find out?)

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to determine which _____.(Why are you doing the project?)

Hypothesis: I predict....(What do you think will happen?)

Materials: List all materials needed to complete the experiment.

Procedures: Step-by-step similar to a recipe – What steps did you follow when conducting your experiment?

Variables: Variables are the things that have an effect on the experiment. In a controlled experiment only one factor can be tested. Choose one factor to change and leave all of the others the same. This factor is my independent variable. The **independent variable** is the one thing you chose to change or manipulate in the experiment. It is the factor that you are comparing or testing. The **dependent variable** is what is measurable. It's what you are observing. The **controlled variables** are the conditions that need to remain the same during my experiment so that they do not affect the results. These stay the same in order to keep the test fair.

Results: Data Table, Graphs, Charts, Photos. (What happened because of the variable?) The results must be measurable (something that can be counted or measured) to provide DATA.

Conclusion: Share what you learned, how you interpreted the results, if your hypothesis was proven correct, possible sources of error, what you would do differently next time, and maybe how the information from your project may be used to help someone else. You do not need to place all of these ideas in your conclusion, just be creative and summarize your project results. The conclusion should start with, "Based on the results of my experiment, I learned..."

Visual Presentation: Gateway has the boards and labels that the students will use for their projects. Students may purchase these from the school for \$5. Please make checks to Gateway Elementary and turn these in to your classroom teacher. The boards will be given out in March. You may use pictures, artwork, colored images, and other items to make the board creative.