

## 2024 Chatham Park Elementary Science Fair

Dear Chatham Park Elementary (CPE) students and their families. We are excited to announce that the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual CPE Science Fair will take place on March 13<sup>th</sup> from 7-9PM at Chatham Park Elementary. All 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited and encouraged to take part in this wonderful tradition which is a great way to explore science in a fun and supportive forum and learn how to think like a scientist!

***Participation is completely voluntary.*** Your project can be about ANY kind of science that interests you. It can be in the form of an experiment or a report (each type will have its own awards in each grade). HASA will provide free display boards for all participants and most projects can be completed with materials found around the home. You may choose to do a project by yourself or with friends from the same grade. If you are interested, we ask that you fill out [this](#) form. This is not binding, but will help us communicate important information to you and would be greatly appreciated.

To support our researchers, we will be hosting a drop-in “Mentor Night” on Wednesday January 31<sup>st</sup> (tentative) in the CPE library from 5:30-7:30. Students are invited to come talk to a professional member of our community who can help them plan and explore ideas for their project.

To make all this happen we are looking for volunteer scientists (biology, physics, medicine, chemistry, engineering, etc.) who are willing to be mentors or judges, and anyone who would like to assist with other aspects of the event. You can sign up for all positions [here](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to email [cpe.hasa.sciencefair@gmail.com](mailto:cpe.hasa.sciencefair@gmail.com).

### Important Dates:

**Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30** – Mentor Night at CPE

**Friday, February 2** – Project proposal due

**Friday, March 1** – Receive your free science fair display board

**Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 9:00** – Science Fair, Open to the entire CPE community

Thank you,

-Jonathan Fingerut, PhD, CPE Science Fair Committee Chair

# STEPS TO PREPARE A SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT

## 1. Choose a topic.

Read!! Ask questions!! Think about something you are interested in! If you think you may want to take part, please fill out the form [here](#). This will make sure the Science Fair committee can keep in touch with you.

## 2. Gather background information.

This step is very important. Gather information from people, books, magazines, the library, and the Internet. Keep notes on what you find.

**3. Decide whether you want to do an experiment\* (in which you collect data) or a report, model, or demonstration.** If an experiment, here is a good site with some helpful tips: <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/activities/science-fair-project/>

## 4. Obtain the information and materials you will need.

Don't wait until the last minute! If you would like to discuss your proposed work with a scientist you can drop into our "Mentor Night" on January 31st at CPE (5:30-7:30)

## 5. Run your experiment, research your report, build your model/demonstration

Plan on having the month of February to do your work. Keep your project simple so that you have time to do it well and can clearly understand what you have found. If you have questions, you can always contact the Science Fair Committee at [cpe.hasa.sciencefair@gmail.com](mailto:cpe.hasa.sciencefair@gmail.com) and they can guide you.

## 6. Construct a display

You will be provided with the poster board at the beginning of March. There are lots of guides on the web, and lots of ways this can be done to suit your particular project. [Here](#) is just one. Remember to make it clear and easy to read and understand what you did and what you found, even if you are not around to explain it.

## 7. Practice your 1-minute presentation.

Be prepared to briefly explain your project and what you learned to the Science Fair judges and visitors.

**8. Come to the Fair on March 13th, show off your work and have fun! Even if you choose not to participate, come cheer on your friends.**

# SAMPLE IDEAS

Your topic can be about ANY type of science. There are lots of good resources on the Internet to help you come up with your idea. Here are some sample links:

[www.sciencebuddies.org](http://www.sciencebuddies.org)

[www.sciencefair-projects.org](http://www.sciencefair-projects.org)

[www.discoveryeducation.com](http://www.discoveryeducation.com)

[www.ipl.org/div/projectguide](http://www.ipl.org/div/projectguide)

<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/neurok.html> (Neuroscience for Kids)

Follow your interests and brainstorm ideas of your own! Here are examples to see the kinds of projects you can do:

## **Experiments:**

Optical illusions: Who sees faster – boys or girls?

Fertilizers and plant growth

Is most people's dominant eye also the one that sees better?

Does music affect concentration?

How do design changes affect the function of a catapult?

What factors affect yeast growth?

## **Reports and Demonstrations:**

How do spiders spin their webs?

Do a report on bee behavior.

Build a robot.

How do gears work?

Do a report on the language ability of apes or parrots.

How is electricity made?