

## A Parent's Guide to Surviving Science Fair

"How to Survive the Science Fair Experience (For Parents)." *The Ohio State University Extension Breads of the Harvest*. Education.com, 2008. Web. 13 Sept. 2015.

### Your student will:

Be engaged in this project and learn far more if the project is his/her own. Let your student do work appropriate to his/her age group and let him/her take pride in working on and finishing a project for the Science Fair.

### Your main role as a parent is to:

- Help your student with time management –

On his/her own your student will put off getting started on the project.

Set aside time on the family calendar to begin the project and then schedule a weekly time to keep it going. We will be giving your student information at the weekly meetings (see schedule). It is a good idea to have your student review with you what he/she learned and then you can help him/her put that into practice.

At this age students work much better in shorter increments of time. Help your student pace him/herself so that he/she is able to handle the work load.

- Help your student narrow and decide on a topic -

Your student will want to look and look for the "perfect" topic. There is no perfect topic. He/she will need help finding something that is easy to do and measurable. Encourage your student to pick something that he/she finds interesting. The NASA video series has a great short video on picking a topic called "Get Your Idea".

- Provide encouragement! Stay positive and supportive.

### What are the key ingredients to a successful science fair project?

1. The student understands the topic and did the work him/herself.
2. The student learned about the scientific method and how to conduct a scientific experiment.
3. The student produced a project that:
  - clearly presented numerical data and conclusions
  - successfully used scientific procedures so that the results were accurate and repeatable
  - consistently utilized journal entries to record step by step progress on the experiment

### What is not as important as parents tend to think?

- The display  
Neatly done, quality work is expected but don't feel the need to go through a big expense or take over at this point for your child. The display must stand alone on your student's desk.