INTRODUCTION - THE REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

The Regional Science Fair was created for Prince William/Manassas area students to exhibit independent research projects in the fields of science, mathematics, engineering, and computer science.

Each student entering in the Regional Science Fair should be congratulated for their achievements to date. In order to be selected for participation in the Regional Fair, the student must have placed in the top of their category at their home school. During the Regional Science Fair, the students’ projects are judged on the following criteria: Background Knowledge and Plan, Experimental Design and Procedures, Results/Conclusions, Display, Clarity (interview and display), and Creative Ability and Originality.

Science projects and science fairs motivate students to pursue an active interest in a variety of science-related fields, to provide a forum for students to showcase their research findings and to dialog with science professionals and with the public, and to give recognition to students for the talents they exhibit through their hard work.

Science fairs also serve an important purpose for instruction. They create an “event” upon which teachers can focus to bring to light students’ abilities to independently practice the science processes and investigative skills teachers have been reinforcing throughout the year in classroom and laboratory instruction. Science projects are a wonderful way for students to demonstrate their understanding of scientific concepts and proficiency with research skills, and science fairs create a school and community event that highlights the importance of these skills in contributing to academic literacy. There is really no better way to ensure that students are truly proficient with the skills outlined in the Scientific Reasoning and Logic strand of the Prince William County Science Curriculum and for which they are accountable.

Science projects require a commitment of time and effort from both students and teachers. Students need to know that teachers recognize the value and purpose of independent inquiry. If they sense less, then the experience becomes an empty exercise and a waste of time for everyone. Likewise, a science fair that is coordinated with heartfelt enthusiasm, sincerity, and commitment from the entire school is one that will succeed in its purpose to give students—and the school community—a chance to showcase great science efforts and boost school pride.

The Science Office is available to assist you as you prepare to undertake the tasks and responsibilities involved in monitoring student research and presentation. Please feel free to contact me at by e-mail at renbergj@pwcs.edu or by telephone at (703) 791-7240 if you should have question or require further information or assistance.

Best wishes as you begin another exciting year of science research!

Sincerely,

Julia Renberg

Supervisor of Science and Family Life Education

Prince William County Public Schools
Director, Prince William-Manassas Regional Science Fair