

## Science Fair 2017

Teachers and Parents:

Here are some guidelines for both the elementary and Jr. High science fair. Please note we follow the same guidelines established by the Ritchey Science and Engineering Fair who in turn follow national guidelines.

### **These items are not allowed at the fair:**

- Living organisms, including plants
- Soil, sand, rock, &/or waste samples, **even if encased in acrylic**
- Taxidermy specimens or parts
- Preserved vertebrate or invertebrate animals
- Human or animal food (Example: fruits, vegetables, snacks)
- Human/animal parts or body fluids (Example: teeth, blood, urine)
- Plant materials (living/dead/preserved) in their raw, unprocessed, or non-manufactured state (Except: manufactured construction materials used to build the project or display)
- All chemicals including water (Projects may not use water in any form in a demo. Other examples: Clorox, cleaning supplies, shampoo, mouthwash, salts, vinegar, baking soda, etc.)
- All hazardous substances or devices (Example: poisons, drugs, firearms, weapons, ammunition, reloading devices, and lasers)
- Dry ice or other sublimating solids
- Sharp items (Example: syringes, needles, pipettes, knives)
- Flames or highly flammable materials
- Batteries with open-top cells
- Glass or glass objects unless deemed by Fair Officials to be an integral part of the project (Example: part of a commercial product such as a computer screen)
- Apparatus deemed unsafe by Fair Officials (Example: large vacuum tubes or dangerous ray-generating devices, empty tanks that previously contained combustible liquids or gases, pressurized tanks, etc.)

Please note that this does not mean they can't use plant, soil, or water, etc. in their experiments it just means they can't bring them to the fair due to safety considerations. What they can do is use photographs or other digital media to show their samples and experimental processes at the fair.

**\*\*\*Also be aware that any experiment that can cause harm or pain to human or animals in any way are always immediately disqualified.**

**For 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade students who would like to participate in the Ritchey Science and Engineering Fair, here is a description of the type of judges and what they will be looking for:**

1) The first group of judges are those who have knowledge in individual categories like Botany, Microbiology, Physics or any of the eleven categories at the fair. Their responsibility is to judge their category and after two rounds of judging come to a consensus as to the top place winners in each of the categories. Once they have made their selections, after much deliberation, they turn in their results and they have completed their charge. All students are eligible for category place awards.

2) The second group of judges will be looking for students with specific types of projects to interview for Special Awards. These judges may not have expertise in your category, but may be looking for aspects of your project that fit their criteria, such as how well you have used math in your analysis. One of the special awards that students in the Junior Fair will compete for this year is a chance to enter the [Broadcom Masters](#) national contest. All students except those in the Davis and Weber School District public schools are eligible for special awards.\*

3) The third group of judges--many are PhD's and have extensive experience in their field of expertise along with experience in judging science fairs at the district, regional and international level--are the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) selection committee. Their charge is to select Student Observers from all qualified 8th graders at the Ritchey Fair, who will then attend ISEF in [Phoenix, May 8-13](#). All expenses are paid by the Affiliate Fair and observers will experience an entire week of fantastic science fair activities and events. All 8th grade students except those in the Davis and Weber School District public schools are eligible to be selected as student observers.\* For more information or to receive a permission form to be eligible for the Observer competition, send an email to the address below.

Once again this year, all **8th grade** students who do not attend the Davis or Weber School District Fairs\*, are eligible to compete for one of two allocations as an ISEF Student Observer. Student Observers will attend the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair as non-competitors. ISEF will be held in [Phoenix, Arizona this year from May 8-13](#). If you are competing for one of the two Ritchey ISEF allocations for Student Observer, please make sure you are able to join us for the entire week of ISEF. If you have any questions, please send an email to [sciencefair@weber.edu](mailto:sciencefair@weber.edu).

**All 8th grade students competing for Student Observer must complete a parent permission form to be eligible for this competition. For more information and a copy of the form to fill out, send an email to [sciencefair@weber.edu](mailto:sciencefair@weber.edu).**