

# Invention Project Guidelines

## General Guidelines

1. The Invention Fair is mandatory for grades 5-8 and voluntary for grade 4.
2. The invention must be the original work of the student or pair of students in the same grade level. Any assistance from adults should be kept to a minimum—this is a project for young inventors! For example, students may need adult assistance for safety reasons.
3. The invention must be that of a single inventor or a pair (two students) of inventors in the same grade level. If students enter as a pair, they must participate as a pair all the way to the school judging event. Students that wish to partner must request parental and teacher permission to enter a group project prior to starting the project. Students cannot change partners or drop a partner once the Invention Fair Coordinator has received the parental consent form and approved the request.
4. Students must be present at the assigned PTO Meeting for the Invention Fair Awards Ceremony and to answer questions about their inventions.
5. Inventors **MUST** be present on the assigned judging day and time. Otherwise, lower judging scores and grades will result. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
6. Inventors must keep a digital copy of everything except the journals and turned in to the Invention Fair Coordinator. The winners' projects will be incorporated into a PowerPoint Slide Show.
7. **My Invention Form:** This worksheet must be completed prior to beginning the invention.
8. **Invention:** An entry must be a new product or an improvement to an existing one.
9. **Model:** Students must create a functioning prototype or model of the invention.
10. **Invention Logbook:** Students are required to display their invention logbook at the Fair. The logbook tells the story of an invention from initial ideas to finished product. The logbook will be supplied to the inventor
11. **Oral Presentation:** Each entrant shall prepare an oral presentation of the project. The presentation should not exceed three (2) minutes in length. Judges will ask questions at the conclusion of the presentation.
12. **Display Board:** Inventors must prepare a display board. (Please purchase from the school so all display boards will be durable and uniform) *Please see Display Board Guidelines for format requirements.*
13. **Flyer (4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Only):** Students must design and provide prepared copies of a single sided flyer. One copy must be turned in to the Invention Fair Coordinator on the assigned Flyer due date and a copy must be presented with the display at the invention fair. The flyer should provide information about the new and exciting invention, along with a picture of the model/invention.

## Additional 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Requirements

1. Although it is not required, seventh graders are encouraged to invent in the Life Science Category and eighth graders are encouraged to invent in the Physical Science Category.
2. **Brochure:** Students must design and provide prepared copies of a 2 sided, tri-fold brochure for judging (5 copies should be sufficient). One copy must be turned in to the Invention Fair Coordinator on the assigned brochure due date and the rest need to be brought the night of the event. The brochure must contain the same information that is required for the display board including a picture of the model on the front panel (the diagram/blueprint and construction pictures are optional). *There are many software programs that have brochure templates including MS Word, Publisher, and Works, as a few examples.*
3. **Patent Search:** Students must conduct a patent/trademark search. Students must fill out the patent form and turn in a copy to the Invention Fair Coordinator prior to beginning the project.