

## **The Purpose of an Invention Fair**

An Invention fair serves as a means of stimulating creative problem-solving interest among students and providing an opportunity for them to create new products. The fair also provides recognition for their work. Good invention projects should provide many ideas of interesting things that other students want to explore.

Every invention project should begin with a question or problem. The problem should be clearly understood by the student before any work is conducted. When a student presents an invention, it should provide an answer to a question. With any project, the teacher can be helpful in guiding the pupil by asking the right kind of questions concerning the methods the student plans to use. Teacher encouragement of invention fair projects is consistent with the current curriculum theory which emphasizes problem-solving, independent learning, and in-depth study in science.

A project must be designed and made by the student. It must conform to the rules and regulations of the Thomas Hart Academy Invention Fair; and it is an exhibition of a new way to solve a problem or an improvement on an old way to solve a problem.

Invention fairs can also be considered a place where young students gather, not only to display their own works, but also to talk with and view those of other students. It also presents the opportunity to display their work to their parents, teachers, and general public.

### **Invention fairs should encourage students to:**

1. Use library facilities, to do extra reading, to develop research habits and techniques, and critical thinking skills.
2. Make worthwhile use of leisure time.
3. Apply their study and their classroom experiences to something of their own creation, coordinating book learning with vocational skills.
4. Develop the technique of communication by explaining their projects through charts and monographs.
5. Develop talents and tastes which are unsuspected.
6. Develop contacts with professional scientists and engineers, with industries, with physicians and surgeons, with others who may make important contributions to their education and also to their future careers.
7. Have the opportunity to win honor and recognition.
8. Demonstrate through their projects and the explanations of them what teachers and schools are doing for them.
9. Experience the thrill of personal creative accomplishment.