

Suggested Timeline

Barron Park is excited to give you the opportunity to participate in our annual Inquiry Fair! We hope you take this chance explore a question that is interesting to you.

An Inquiry Fair is different than a traditional Science Fair because the ideas need to come from you, not from a book of experiments where you prove something as right or wrong. This is an opportunity to celebrate your curiosity and think about how you can use experiments, research, and creativity to explore a question of your choice.

The goal of this project is to encourage you to ask a thoughtful question, that you can investigate and try to answer purposefully. Hopefully this process will encourage you to think more critically and consider more questions as you learn and grow. Being curious is a great thing!

The “what to do” and the timeline sections in this brochure will help you be successful.

Getting help from your family and friends is *encouraged*. There are many adults on campus and in our parent community ready to work with you if you need help from an adult other than your own parents.

The Inquiry Fair is open to all Barron Park students at all grade levels. You are welcome to work on an individual project, form a group, or work as a class.

Come join in the fun of discovery!!

February 25 – March 15: Make your list of questions and choose the one that you want to investigate.

By March 19: Complete online registration:
<https://tinyurl.com/InquiryFairRegistration>

By March 22: Design how you will explore and research your question so that you can try to answer it. Depending upon your questions, you may need to give yourself more time.

By April 5: Collect your information, run your experiments, do your research. ****Remember to record all your findings.****
The week of April 1 is Spring Break, if you will be traveling, you'll want to finish this earlier.

April 5 -10: Finish your research and put together your presentation on your display board. Below is a sample of how you might use the display board.

April 11: Bring your project to school



Barron Park's 2019



Inquiry Fair April 11

“[Science is] a great game. It is inspiring and refreshing. The playing field is the universe itself.”
Isidor Isaac Rabi
U. S. Physicist. Nobel prize 1944

WHAT TO DO

Getting Started: Make a list of questions you have so you can choose your favorite. Your questions do not need to be complicated. In fact, the best questions are usually very simple. Some past projects include:

- What dishwashing soap works best?
- What brand of paper towel is most absorbent?
- Does it really make a walk sign come faster to press the button more times?
- How can we catch a bubble without breaking it?
- How does a clock work?
- How does our body turn food into energy?

Choose the question you will research, and write why it is an important and interesting question for *you*.

Make a list of everything you already know about your question.

Make a hypothesis. A hypothesis is a really good guess based on what you already know about your question. What do you think you'll find out? What do you think the answer to your question will be?

Figure out how you will test and research your question to try to find an answer. You might need to use the library, videos, the Internet, experiments, photos and more.

Think about the kind of help you might need from adults. Will you be doing an experiment that needs adult supervision? Will you need an adult to take you to a certain place? Will you need to ask an expert on your topic? Do you need help thinking about what books will be good for you to read?

How will you record your results? How will you keep track of what you find out? Will you need to keep track of the time it takes you to do something? Will you draw pictures? Will you keep a journal? Will you keep your results in a spreadsheet on the computer?

After you have finished your exploration, decide how you are going to explain what you discovered. What are your conclusions, and what other questions came up as you did your research? (Your project needs to be displayed on a board so we can show it in the fair. See the example on other side of this brochure).

Put your presentation together and bring it to school on April 11.

Get Thinking!!

To be part of the Inquiry fair, go online to register: <https://tinyurl.com/InquiryFairRegistration>
The registration form is due on or before **March 19**. If you need help registering, please ask your classroom teacher or email marlokitch@gmail.com

What is the question you are going to learn more about and try to answer? Your question can be about anything. Let your curiosity about a topic help you form a question. You can ask science questions, math questions, questions about how or why things work. Don't limit yourself as you think of ideas.

How will you explore/research your question? Will you need to do an experiment, look things up in books, ask experts, find information on the Internet?

What materials will you need? What are the items you'll need to do your research? Are there books or special equipment or balls or stopwatches or bubbles?

Don't forget to complete the
[Online Inquiry Fair Registration Form](#)