

# 2019 STEM Expo – General Info

## 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Greetings! We hope the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Expo will allow students to choose from a wide variety of potential topics and raise awareness of the connections among the STEM disciplines at an early age. The most important part of the STEM Expo is that students have fun and get excited about doing an independent, grade appropriate project to share with their peers -- we encourage minimizing adult input and work!

We are sharing information for students (and their adults) through a combination of paper and electronic resources this year. All information is available in electronic form [http://lo.bsd7.org/our\\_school/s\\_t\\_e\\_m](http://lo.bsd7.org/our_school/s_t_e_m), with the main information in the paper packet.

List of resources available:

- (1) **Cover sheet / synopsis** (*paper and electronic*)
- (2) **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** (*electronic only*) - The Frequently Asked Questions section provides an easy-to-reference document for basic information. This is where you will find information about due dates, the logistics of the Expo, and additional information to help your student get started on a project.
- (3) **Guiding questions** - This is meant to help think through key questions involved in designing a STEM project, making conclusions from it, and sharing the results with others. The document is meant to be helpful through the whole process of the project, from thinking of an idea to preparing a presentation and poster. The documents contain a lot of information and students should not feel as if they need to have an answer prepared for each question. It is meant to provide as much guidance as you would like, not stress!  
For 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade there are two versions:
  - (a) **general version** (*paper and electronic*), and
  - (b) **version specific to comparative studies/experiments** (*electronic only*)
- (4) **Feedback form for students** (*paper and electronic*): The feedback form will be filled out *for* students by visiting STEM experts after students present and discuss their projects. It is included in the packet so students can see what type of feedback to expect (free-form comments to students about things they did well and things they can improve for the future). We find this to be more meaningful to students than the multiple choice-style rubrics.

(5) **Project proposal / sign-up sheet** (*paper and electronic*): This form will be due to your teacher by **February 11** to help teachers and STEM Expo volunteers plan for the event.

If you have any questions about the materials, or why we have structured it as we have, please feel free to contact Laurie Rugemer ([laurie.rugemer@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.rugemer@gmail.com)), Megan Higgs ([higgs.stat@gmail.com](mailto:higgs.stat@gmail.com)), or Matt Kline ([metfigga@gmail.com](mailto:metfigga@gmail.com)).