

Oakdale Joint Unified School District
39th ANNUAL SCIENCE FAIR

Oakdale Junior High School, 400 South Maag Avenue, Oakdale, CA
 March 18-19, 2025

Dear Families:

Your child has the exciting opportunity to participate in the Annual Oakdale Joint Unified School District Science Fair! Students will be expected to complete these projects in addition to their normal classroom activities, and their classroom teacher may provide limited support.

The Science Fair will be held at Oakdale Junior High School gymnasium. The School District and area businesses will recognize student efforts and achievements at the Science Fair Awards Ceremony.

To participate in the Science Fair, each student needs to fill out the attached **application** (also available at the Science Fair website http://www.oakdale.k12.ca.us/Science_Fair) and return it to their classroom teacher **by Friday, February 14th, 2025**. **No late applications/entries will be accepted.**

For questions, please contact your child's school or leave a message for:

Cloverland Elementary	Brittany Koppinger	209-847-4276	bkoppinger@ojusd.org
Fair Oaks Elementary	Jennifer Davis	209-847-0391	jdavis@ojusd.org
Magnolia Elementary	Katie Bomer	209-8473056	kbomer@ojusd.org
Sierra View Elementary	Nicole DeCoste	209-848-4200	ndecoste@ojusd.org
Oakdale Junior High	Talmage Allen	209-847-2294	tallen@ojusd.org

Upcoming Deadlines

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 14, Friday | Applications submitted to the classroom teacher |
| February 14- March 18 | Begin and complete your Science Fair Experiment/Project
*Special rules apply to Animal Research Projects (see General Instructions and Requirements for the Science Fair) |
| March 18, Tuesday | Students deliver and set up Projects at OJHS Gymnasium
2:30-6:00 p.m. |
| March 19, Wednesday | Student Scientist Evening at OJHS Gym 6:00-7:00 p.m. |
| March 19, Wednesday | Pick up Projects at the OJHS Gym at 7:00 p.m. |
| March 27, Thursday | Awards Ceremony at Magnolia Auditorium 6:30-7:30 p.m. |

Attached:

- 8 Steps to a Great Science Fair Experiment
- Science Fair General Instructions and Judging Sheet
- Events Schedule and Application

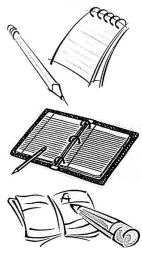
Oakdale Joint Unified School District's
SCIENCE FAIR
8 Steps to a Great Science Fair Experiment

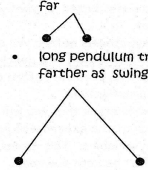


Step 1: SCIENCE NOTEBOOK (20% of Score)

- The **Science Notebook** is bound (*spiral notebook, neatly stacked and stapled binder paper with cover; no loose pages*), handwritten (*Grades K-1 may dictate to an adult*), and readable. Place your name(s) on back cover.
- The **Science Notebook** has dated entries (like a Diary) and is a log for all the activities you perform for your Experiment.
- In your Notebook should be: The 5 Elements of your Experiment (Problem, Hypothesis, Procedure, Results, Conclusion), all thinking associated with the development of your Experiment, your collected Data, unexpected experiences while performing the Experiment, basically everything! Think of it as your Experiment's Diary.
- Display the **Science Notebook** in front of your **Display Board**.
- Include **RESEARCH** related to your topic in your **Science Notebook**. A **Bibliography** should be included. This research is done before and during your experiment to better understand the results of the experiment. **Research** may be included on your **Display Board** also.

Science Fair Notebook: How Might It Look?



Example of a Journal Page...	Example of Observations...
<p>2/17/14 - When I was at the American History Museum in Washington DC with my family I loved watching the HUGE pendulum at the entrance and want to learn more about how they work I observed some pendulums inside clocks at my uncle's house and decided that I wanted to test to see what made them go faster or slower.....</p> <p>2/18/14 I made a pendulum out of string and hung it on a pencil taped to the kitchen table. I observed it and decided to test to see if.....</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p>	<p>2/21/14</p> <p>Pendulum observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • short pendulum does not have to travel very far • long pendulum travels farther as swings  <p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p>

Judging Standards: Below is the Judging Sheet the Science Fair Judges will use to evaluate each Science Fair Project. Use this to guide the creation, editing, and final touches of your Science Fair Project! You be your own JUDGE!

(Find *Science Fair Judging Sheet 2014* on website)

Step 2: PROBLEM (10% of Score)

- This is the most important step to get you on the right path for a great Project. Take your time choosing the right Problem. To narrow down a topic, start with the areas of your life that you are most interested: sports, plants, food, video games, whatever grabs your interest!
- What is to be solved in your experiment?
- A good problem must be one that **HAS TO BE TESTED** in order to get an answer. (Remember that Volcanoes and Solar System Models are not examples of Problems; these are demonstrations that do not require an Experiment)
- You must control your variables. This means you can only test **ONE** thing at a time and everything else in your experiment must be kept the same.
- Sources for Project ideas: Science Buddies Website: <http://www.sciencebuddies.org/>
- Science Fair Problem Idea Sheet: http://www.ojUSD.org/Science_Fair

Step 3: HYPOTHESIS (10% of Score)

- Write down your Hypothesis before you start your Experiment.
- A Hypothesis is a good guess based on what you already know or from the research you have done or before the experiment.
- A Hypothesis includes **WHY** you think your guess will occur based on your experience or research you have done before the Experiment is started. Examples of well written Hypotheses include but are not limited to:

I think _____ will happen **because** _____
or
If I do _____ **then** _____ will happen.

- Your hypothesis **might not match the conclusion of your experiment**. This is fine. The important part is that you thought out the problem before conducting the experiment. We sometimes learn more when we are wrong than when we are right!

Step 4: PROCEDURE or Method of Investigation (10% of Score)

- Write down the exact steps that you will use to do your experiment. This must be detailed enough for someone else to repeat the experiment. Showing the Procedure as a List of Steps (Step 1, Step 2, etc.) is a good idea. The Judges will be looking at your Steps and asking the question, "Could I repeat this Experiment from the written Procedure?" Make sure to REPEAT YOUR EXPERIMENT several times to check your results! (2 Repeats are good; 3 Repeats are best!)
- Include a List of **Materials for your Experiment**.

Step 5: Data/Results - Collecting and Analyzing Data (25% of Score)

- **Results** include the **Data** you collect and **Summarize** when doing the Experiment.
- **Data** will be the observations and/or measurements you make as you do the experiments.
- This **Data** could be recorded as tables of numbers (for example: measurements), labeled drawings/pictures, or written descriptions.
- Graphing data collected is great way to help summarize your **Data**.
- Make sure to label everything.
- Write a **Summary of Results**. Summarize in a paragraph what your **Data** tells you.
- The combination of the **Data** collected and the **Summary of Results** should allow the Judges/Public to understand what happened in your Experiment.

Step 6: CONCLUSION (10% of Score)

- The **Conclusion** is the place where you tell what you learned.
- Include in your **Conclusion** whether your **Hypothesis** was correct or incorrect. Your **Hypothesis** may have been incorrect, and that is fine. Sometimes we learn more when our guess (**Hypothesis**) was wrong!
- Did you find an answer to your problem? If so what was it? What more would you like to find out?
- Your **Conclusion** must be based on the data you have collected!!!

Step 7: DISPLAY BOARD (10% of Score)

- **Display Boards** must not be larger than 1.5 feet deep, 3 feet side to side, 4 feet top to bottom, and **they must be free standing**
- Your **Display Board**, is the last part of a Science Fair Project. It summarizes to the public what happened in your experiment.
- It must show The 5 Elements of your Experiment (Problem, Hypothesis, Procedure, Results, Conclusion), and be neat and organized.
- You can use some of your own personal creativity in the display and title, but remember the most important thing is to summarize to the public/judges what happened in your experiment.
- Your Display Board does not have to look exactly like this sample
- **Place your name, grade, and teacher on BACK of board!**
- **No student names or faces on front of board. If you are in a picture, please cover your face with a sticker**

<u>PROBLEM</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	
<u>HYPOTHESIS</u>	<u>RESULTS</u> <i>LABEL EVERYTHING!</i>	<u>SUMMARY OF RESULTS</u>
<u>PROCEDURE STEPS</u>	Chart of repeated experiments	<u>CONCLUSION</u>
<u>LIST OF MATERIALS</u>	Graphs Drawings (Science Notebook placed in front of board.)	<u>RESEARCH & BIBLIOGRAPHY</u>

Step 8: You be the Judge! (5% of Score Reserved for Judges)

- Now Judge yourself! Use the attached Judge's Sheet to be sure you have included all the Elements for a Great Science Fair Project.

General Instructions and Requirements for the Science Fair

- **CLASS and GROUP EXHIBITS:** Classes or groups of 2 to 6 students (K-8) may submit projects. **Students MUST be in the same grade level if conducting a Group Project.**
- **LIVE ANIMAL RESEARCH:** Projects involving the observation or testing of **ANY** live animal must have a **OJUSD Live Animal Research Plan** signed by a Veterinarian. **Research Plans** can be found on Science Fair Website http://www.ojUSD.org\Science_Fair. You need two copies. One to be attached to the application and one to be turned in with project. **If there is no Research Plan with a project, we cannot accept the project.**
- **HUMAN TISSUE:** The exhibition of human parts is prohibited. Teeth, nails, histological sections, and liquid slides properly acquired are permitted.
- **EXHIBIT SIZE:** Exhibits must not be larger than 1.5 feet deep, 3 feet side to side, 4 feet top to bottom. **They must be free standing.**
- **NAMES ON BACK of PROJECTS and NOTEBOOKS:** Student name, grade level, school, and teacher's name should be placed **ON THE BACK OF THE PROJECT and NOTEBOOK.**
- **PICTURES OF STUDENTS:** Pictures are a great way to show what happens in an experiment. Pictures must **NOT** include faces of students or other participants in the project. Cover all faces with sticky dots or notes.
- **EXHIBIT POWER SOURCE:** No electric power, gas, or running water will be provided for exhibits at the fair.
- **SAFETY:** Any display element that could be hazardous to the public is strictly prohibited (i.e. drugs, caustic/flammable chemicals, microbial/fungal cultures, live insects, etc.)
- **STUDENT WORK:** Project must reflect the work of student(s). Grades K and 1 may dictate to an adult.
- **NO LATEX BALLOONS** on science fair boards at the Science Fair. Latex balloons can be used to conduct an experiment. They **CANNOT** be displayed at the Science Fair.
- **Loss or Damage:** Oakdale Joint Unified School District will not be responsible for the loss or damage of any items brought for display at the Science Fair. Display of valuable items is discouraged. They should be simulated if necessary on the display board.

EXHIBITS MUST BE REMOVED BETWEEN at 7:00 PM after the Evening with Scientist. Exhibits not collected can be picked up at the Jr High Library the next day. If not picked up they will then be discarded.

Judges' Comments and Recommendations:

Comments:

- ◆ Shows Originality – Unique problem or approach.
- ◆ Exhibits creative use of materials or equipment.
- ◆ Great project design and the reasoning is clear.
- ◆ Project shows good familiarity with the topic (research).
- ◆ Experimental method is clear (experiment easily replicated).
- ◆ Exemplary treatment of data: sample selection, collection, display, replication of trials.
- ◆ Exceptional student skills in math, statistics, computer use, or observation.
- ◆ Project Notebook is exceptionally neat, organized, and clear.
- ◆ Display board is exceptionally attractive, organized, and clear.
- ◆ Project shows evidence of an exceptional amount of hard work by the student.
- ◆ The project is clearly the work of the student.

Suggestions for Improvement:

- ◆ The project notebook is absent or difficult to follow.
- ◆ More data are needed.
- ◆ Attention to variables is needed.
- ◆ Graphs are incomplete or incorrectly drawn.
- ◆ The display board is not neat or is difficult to follow.
- ◆ Important components of a study like this have been omitted.
- ◆ Data are misinterpreted, or all likely interpretations of the data have not been considered.
- ◆ Needs more clarity or attention to scientific concepts and/or accuracy.

Additional Judges' Comments:

Oakdale

Joint Unified

School District

Science

Fair

Judging Standards

Oakdale Joint Unified School District

"A Bright Future"

Title of Project _____

Entry Number _____

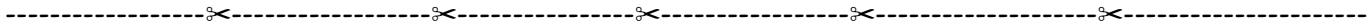
Grade Level _____

Scientific Method	low-----high
<p>1. Notebook: (0-20 points) A) Handwritten, readable, and bound B) The <u>Notebook</u> is like a diary of the Experiment from the beginning. (How/Why Problem was chosen) to Conclusion. C) <u>Problem</u>, <u>Hypothesis</u>, <u>Procedure</u> (with <u>List of Materials</u>), <u>Data/Results</u>, <u>Conclusion</u> included in notebook. D) The <u>Notebook</u> includes <u>Research</u> with a <u>Bibliography</u></p> <p>Comment:</p>	<p>A) 0 1 2 3 4 5 B) 0 1 2 3 4 5 C) 0 1 2 3 4 5 D) 0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>earned:</p>
<p>2. Problem: (0-10 points) The <u>Problem</u> is a question that has to be tested to get an answer. ONE variable is being tested. <u>Note: Models</u> (e.g. volcanoes/solar systems) and <u>Demonstrations</u> (e.g. how bees make honey) are NOT Problems.</p> <p>Comment:</p>	<p>0 2 4 6 8 10</p> <p>earned:</p>
<p>3. Hypothesis: (0-10 points) The Hypothesis predicts the outcome of the experiment AND includes why the student believes their prediction will occur. It is acceptable if the Hypothesis is wrong. <u>Examples:</u> I think _____ will happen because _____ If I do _____ then _____ will happen</p> <p>Comment:</p>	<p>0 2 4 6 8 10</p> <p>earned:</p>
<p>4. Procedure: (0-10 points) A) The exact steps for the Experiment are listed with great detail (Could you repeat this experiment from this Procedure?)..... B) <u>List of Materials</u> is provided.</p> <p>Comment:</p>	<p>A) 0 1 2 3 4 5 B) 0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>earned:</p>

Scientific Method	low-----high
<p>5. Data/Results: (0-25) A) <u>Data/Results</u> collected for the experiment are clearly recorded, labeled, and displayed (e.g., an organized list, graphs, charts, sequence of pictures, etc.) B) There are sufficient numbers of trials (2 trials good, 3 trials best) C) A written <u>Summary of the Results</u> in paragraph form. D) Using the <u>Data/Results</u> AND the <u>Summary of Results</u>, it is easy to understand what happened in the experiment.</p> <p>Comment:</p>	<p>A) 0 2 4 6 8 10 B) 0 1 2 3 4 5 C) 0 1 2 3 4 5 D) 0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>earned:</p>
<p>6. Conclusion: (0-10 points) A) The student states what was learned from the <u>Data/Results</u>, and their <u>Conclusion</u> is consistent with the <u>Data/Results</u>. B) The <u>Conclusion</u> states whether the <u>Hypothesis</u> was correct or incorrect.</p> <p>Comment:</p>	<p>A) 0 1 2 3 4 5 B) 0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>earned:</p>
<p>7. Display (0-10 points) Overall visual appeal with a layout that is logical, easy to follow, and neat. Board is well-edited (including spelling).</p> <p>Comment:</p>	<p>0 2 4 6 8 10</p> <p>earned:</p>
<p>8. Depth and Complexity: (5 points) A <u>Project</u> that demonstrates a Depth and Complexity of thinking, or originality that is Unusual for the Projects the Judge has scored. To receive these points, the <u>Project</u> must have All required parts of a complete Science Fair Project.</p> <p>Comment:</p>	<p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>earned:</p>
<p>Total Project Point Possible: 100</p>	<p>Total Earned:</p>

2025 Science Fair Event Schedule

February 14, Friday		Applications submitted to Classroom Teacher
March 18, Tuesday	2:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Students set up Exhibits at OJHS Gymnasium
March 7, Thursday	8:30 AM - 2:30 AM	Judging of Exhibits
	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Student Scientist Evening
	7:00 PM	Pick up Exhibits If not picked up they will be in the OJHS Library for one day. If not picked up they will be discarded.
March 27, Thursday	6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Science Fair Awards Ceremony at Magnolia Auditorium. Award Winners will be invited by school.



OAKDALE JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SCIENCE FAIR APPLICATION

Application Deadline: February 14, 2025

NAME(S) OF STUDENT(S) _____
(print first and last name neatly)

Students MUST be in the same grade level if conducting a Group Project.

EXHIBIT TITLE: _____

Must have a title. If you need to change the title contact Jennifer Davis at jdavis@ojusd.org

***NEW*...PROJECT PROBLEM-** Write out the question you are testing (see Required Science Project Elements):

Project Category : Individual Project Group Project (2-6 students; same grade) Class Project

Please check box to indicate your category.

SCHOOL _____ GRADE _____ TEACHER _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ home _____ cell

PARENT/SPONSOR SIGNATURE: _____

Return this application to your teacher by Friday, February 14, 2025

Remember:

- No latex Balloons can be displayed at Science Fair.
- Live Animal Research Plan needs to be attached to the application and the project for all live animal projects.
- Loss or Damage: Oakdale Joint Unified School District will not be responsible for the loss or damage of any items brought for display at the Science Fair. Display of valuable items is discouraged. They should be simulated if necessary on the display board.