Science Fair Proposal and Project Guidelines

I. The proposal must be submitted by the deadline to receive full credit. The deadline for biology is Thursday 9/29/11, and for chemistry is 9/30/11. The grade for the proposal will be equivalent to two normal 6 point lab grades for chemistry, or two normal 6 point homework grades for biology.

II. The proposal may be submitted by an individual or a team of two students. A team may be formed from different class times, but not from different subjects. If a team submits a proposal, they MUST complete the project. Individuals are not required to complete the project.

III. If the proposal is actually implemented, its grade may be substituted for the final exam in the semester in which it is completed. If two projects are completed, one in each semester, they may be substituted for both semester finals.

IV. Mr. Vins will grade all proposals. He must also approve all projects before implementation (except as listed in item V), and he will grade all projects. A rubric for grading the projects will be published by Wednesday 10/5/11.

V. Any student who is in both chemistry and biology, or is in chemistry or biology and an agricultural science or veterinary science class, may submit the project for credit in two classes. Joint approval from the teachers of both classes is required for a two-class project.

VI. These are the required contents of the proposal:

1. Title, including names of individual or team members, and date of proposal.
2. Objectives. This should include the hypothesis that will be tested by the project.
3. Apparatus. This is a list of the supplies, lab equipment, animals, etc. that will be required to conduct the project. This should also include an estimated budget. Projects must cost no more than $50 per student, or $100 per team. $10 per person is a more realistic budget.
4. Procedure. This is a detailed, step-by-step, explanation of what will be done when the project is implemented.
5. Observations. This should include the type of data that will be collected, as well as the number of trials, or the sample size, of the measurements.
6. Conclusions. This is a prediction of which ways the results could impact the hypothesis, i.e., prove, disprove, or be inconclusive.

VII. The topic of the project must be original, not downloaded from the internet or repackaged from a previous science fair (e.g., no table-top volcanoes or oobleck). It can be from any area of science, including chemistry, biology, agriculture, sociology, psychology, medicine, computer science, transportation, etc. Outside help must be limited to that approved by Mr. Vins. In other words, you need to do the work, not your parental units.

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