

Irwin Academic Center

2013-2014 Math Fair Judging Guide



Welcome...

Thank you so much for taking time to participate in Irwin's Annual Math Fair! Our Fourth Graders have worked hard and look forward to sharing their projects with you. They have spent the last few weeks researching a mathematical topic of interest to them and showing its application to everyday life. We are extremely proud of their hard work and want the Math Fair to be a positive learning experience for all!

Interviewing Students:

"Look Fors" When Interviewing Students:

- Is the student's selected mathematical topic connected to the real world?
Ask: *How can I see this math topic in the real world? Which occupations might use these math concepts?*
- Did the project provide a genuine learning opportunity for the student?
Ask: *What was your favorite part about completing this project? What was challenging? What might you change if you were to do it again?*
- What does the student know about their selected math topic?
Ask: *What is the most important thing I should know about this math topic?*
- Is the student able to answer any questions you may have?
Think: *Are they detailed in their responses? Accurate? Insightful?*

How to Help Students Do Their Best:

- Shake hands and introduce yourself.
- Share a quick compliment to help break the ice. ("Oh, what a great board!")
- Nervous students may try to start reading their project board. To prevent this, start with something like, "Tell me how you came up with this great idea." or "Wow! What an interesting topic!"
- SMILE! ☺ Relaxed students will do a better job of expressing their passion, interest, and understanding of their chosen topic.
- Try your best to make the experience positive for each student. Every student should feel a great sense of accomplishment.

Judging Responsibilities:

- You will judge between 4-5 projects per classroom.
- You will only judge student projects based on their trifold board *and* their presentation. Do not worry about reading the Project Report! ☺
- Each scoring sheet will have students' name, grade level, and project title already filled in. Completely fill out the judging score sheet for every project. If the project does not have an item that is listed on the score sheet, be sure to mark a "0" to indicate that it is missing.
- Spend between 5-8 minutes judging each project.
- You may jot down notes in the "Comments" section on the Scoring Rubric.
- Take the Scoring Rubric with you. The Scoring Rubric is not shared with students; they will receive feedback on their project from their teachers.

Scoring:

- Score totals will be calculated at the end of the Math Fair and the top 10, highest scoring projects will be determined.
- Each judge will closely examine the top 10 projects and collaboratively determine winners for 1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place, and up to 7 projects for Honorable Mention.