



## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Science Fair with Invention Convention

Dear Parents,

Our ability to solve present and future problems depends on our ability to question the world in new and creative ways. We must move away from having students memorizing facts, and move towards emphasizing critical thinking skills, as well as finding creative solutions to existing problems. The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Science Fair with Invention Convention is an exciting opportunity for students to develop these skills! All K-8 students enrolled in Manchester Public Schools are invited to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Science Fair with Invention Convention. Students are encouraged, but not required, to complete a science project in one of the following two categories: Invention Convention and Science Fair (Investigation or Model).

**Invention Convention (Kindergarten-Grade 8):** Students solve a problem by creating an invention. This could be something new or an improvement of something that already exists.

**Science Fair (Investigation and Model, Kindergarten-Grade 8):** Students complete one of two possible projects:

Investigation: Using the scientific method to design, test, analyze and present a project that shows findings on a prediction.

Model: Researching and reporting on how a system works. Students will make a display and build a model of the system so visitors can see what it is and how it works.

As your child begins the process of inventing, investigating and modeling, your continued interest and encouragement will be helpful. Parents are encouraged to provide guidance as needed but the final project should reflect your child's individual effort and design. Remind your child that although inventors often experience failure along the way, they remain persistent and keep trying and thinking of new ideas to solve a problem. The school's STEM Specialists and Enrichment Instructors will be responsible for approving all science fair projects. Students will work on a science project in their own time at home and/or during after-school guidance (please contact your child's STEM specialist to arrange after-school guidance). Your child may share his or her science project at the school science fair on Wednesday, February 24, 2016. Some students will be selected to share their projects at the District-Wide Science Fair on April 23, 2016 or the Connecticut Invention Convention on April 30, 2016.

Registration materials for this event can be obtained from Mrs. Randazzo or Mr. Rossi and are due on January 8, 2016.

Sincerely,

Manchester Public Schools & Manchester Town-Wide PTA