

Science Projects at Kalamazoo Country Day School

Science projects are an integral part of the science and math curriculum at Kalamazoo Country Day School. These projects allow students to utilize the knowledge that is presented to them in the classroom. Students are required to demonstrate the scientific method of investigation along with the presentation skills in both oral and written form. The science project format at Kalamazoo Country Day School follows these five steps:

The Question:

Students start their science project by developing a question that they wish to answer. Students then have to be able to create an experiment that is within their ability and will provide them with enough information to answer their question. Students should fill out a science project proposal sheet with a detailed description of their science project procedure. The proposal sheet should be signed by the student and one parent. Students and parents may contact Mr. Steele at any time to check with the appropriateness of any question or experiment.

The Experiment:

Students that have received approval for their science project may proceed with their experiment. Experiments many take place at school or home. Seventh and Eighth Grade students must collect quantitative data during their experiment so it can be charted and graphed.

The Written Presentation:

After the experiment has been completed the students must organize a written presentation. The written presentation includes a title page, table of contents, detailed procedure of the experimental process including a statement of purpose, set of data tables and graphs, conclusion, analysis of problems and improvements, and acknowledgements. The written presentation should be well organized, proofed, and presented in a binder. Students may use drawings and photographs to help present their information.

The Oral Presentation:

After the written presentations have been evaluated and returned, each student will be required to present the same material to his/her classmates and other audience members in December. Students may use any means to present their information as long as it represents their project. Eighth Grade students are required to make their oral presentations using PowerPoint. Oral presentations should be well rehearsed to help find troublesome problems. Students will be asked questions at the end of their presentation.

The Science Fair:

All Kalamazoo Country Day School Middle School students are invited to participate in the Kalamazoo Country Day School Science Fair in February. Students compete against their classmates on the quality of their experiment and presentation. Science professional within the Kalamazoo community judge each student's project. Awards are usually given to the top three students in each grade.

The science project takes a considerable amount of time and the work should be evenly distributed throughout the first trimester. Students should plan to work on their project every week until it is completed. Each project has a significant impact on a student's grade and should be taken seriously.