K - 2 Science Fair Guidelines

• What is a CAVA Science Fair?
  Our science fair is an exciting way for our students to display their scientific inquiries! We will display your experiments and their results at Science Fair events across the state as well as online for the whole school to see!

• How do I begin?
  Begin by looking into a topic that interests you. Any questions that come up, write them down. If there is a question that you can test to find an answer, you may use this to do an experiment. For example, you may be interested in magnetism. As you explore different types of magnets, you notice that certain magnets, perhaps the thicker ones, seem to have a stronger pull. You wonder if the thickness of the magnet always creates a stronger magnetic pull. You can conduct an experiment to measure how the thickness of a magnet affects its pull.

What needs to be included?
• On the Display Board
  o Title - choose a catchy title
  o Question - what are you trying to find out?
  o Hypothesis - what do you think will happen?
  o Procedure - a few sentences or pictures showing how the experiment was conducted
  o Data - pictures, list, chart, or a few sentences showing the results
  o Conclusion - what is the answer to the original question, based on your data

• With the display board
  o Model or Materials - you may display the items used in your experiment along with your display board.

• Judging: You will be judged on the following components using a rubric for your grade level.
  o Display Board: Are all the required components present? Is it easy to follow and well designed?
  o Experiment: Is it student centered? Did you follow the scientific method?
Presentation: Did you present? Were you able to speak about your experiment in a way that showed the judges you really knew the project well?

• Can my parents help?
  Parents can help, but the project should be the child’s own work. The experiment should be conducted by the student. The display board may be put together by the parent, but the student should design it and at least dictate the information that is displayed (best practice is to have the child hand write the information if it is age appropriate). Parents may take photographs that are used. All work completed by parent should be labeled as such.

• Suggested timeline:
  o Now - Beginning of November
    ▪ Identify topic - what is an area that interests you?
    ▪ Identify question - what do you want to find out?
    ▪ Develop hypothesis - what do you think will happen?
  o The month of November and beginning of December:
    ▪ Decide what you will do for your experiment. How will it work? Write your procedure
    ▪ What will you need to do your experiment?
  o The month of December (winter break is a great time!)
    ▪ Do your experiment
    ▪ Record your data
  o The month of January
    ▪ Analyze your data - what does it mean?
    ▪ Write your conclusion - was your hypothesis right or wrong? Why?
  o The month of February
    ▪ Complete your display board
  o The month of March
    ▪ Display your project at a local Science Fair event
  o Winners will be announced mid-April