Judging Criteria and General Information

Thank you again for devoting your time and energy to our students of Denton ISD. Following are some things to consider as you begin the judging process.

- Projects should be evaluated for following the scientific process and should represent a testable question. Models, demonstrations, collections, or non-testable research should not be considered for awards.
- Judge projects first by the scientific standard and then by comparison to their peers.
- Do not lower an evaluation of a project because it is hand-written. Likewise, a powerful display board should not overshadow the real substance of an investigation. "Marketing" of the child's work is only a small portion of the overall project.
- In the final stages of the judging process, such criteria as evidence of multiple trials, a hand-written data log book, journal quantitative or qualitative data represented in graphs, charts, tables or other visuals, or a summary report should be used to differentiate the finalist.
- At the campus, each grade level will award 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards. **Only the top 2 awards in each grade will attend the District Science Fair.** Third place winners from the campus will attend District Fair only in the event that an alternate is needed.

Each judging team, under the direction of the lead judge, will decide how to organize their efforts. Some teams will prefer to individually complete a preliminary evaluation of each assigned project and then get together to confer. Other teams will go through the judging process all together. There is no right or wrong way for this process to unfold.

A positive note with comments and/or suggestions should be completed by each judging team and left with the project. Please include specific comments as to suggestions for improvement on those projects that will be going on to compete at the District Science Fair.