

History Fair

Memorial Lutheran School
5800 Westheimer
Houston, Texas 77057
713-782-4022

February 11, 2011

On Wednesday, April 13th through Friday, April 15th we will conduct our school-wide History Fair. The History Fair projects will be on display during the afternoon and evening of Thursday, April 14th. Projects should be in place by 9 a.m., Wednesday, April 13th. Judging begins Wednesday afternoon, during which time the students will give a brief explanation of their project. Projects should be promptly taken home on Friday, April 15th.

Here are some guidelines to follow as you guide your child with her/his project:

1. Choose an age-appropriate topic in history or geography.
2. Use history textbooks, atlases, world almanacs, encyclopedias, library, books, the internet, or eye-witnesses for references.
3. Help the child make the work his/her own rather than copy from text books and references.
4. Assist your child in making an explanation of the project. (See RULE 6)

If you have any questions, please feel free to discuss them with your child's teacher.

Participation is required in grades 2-8.
First grade participation is VOLUNTARY.

Thank you, and HAVE FUN!

The Memorial Lutheran School Faculty

Please fill out the attached entry form and return it to your child's teacher no later than Friday, March 25th.

Purpose of the History Fair

History Fairs are organized to:

- provide opportunities for individual students to explore topics of special interest
- improve student ability to apply research techniques
- encourage knowledge and creativity within the educational setting
- expand the understanding of students, parents, and the community of specific aspects of history
- develop public awareness of the abilities of Memorial Lutheran School students

Topics for Entries

Specific topics are necessary for adequate development. The best material and the most rewarding topics may come from the surrounding community and its history and geography, where an extensive range of topics are available.

Entries will be more meaningful and of higher quality if the topics are of particular interest to the students. The ideal topic is one that:

- interests the student
- has adequate resource material available
- can be adequately developed within the constraints of time and space
- enables a student to use his or her special talents

All entries must adhere to Memorial Lutheran School guidelines.

Description, Rules, and Suggestions for Exhibits

An exhibit is a stationary project with a visual dimension. Exhibits include artifacts, table models, pictures, photographs, maps, drawings, or graphs. The purpose of research and planning in the exhibit category is to condense and synthesize the topic into a visual presentation that is self-explanatory.

Rule 1: Entries submitted for competition must be researched and developed during the contest year. Exhibits may not be submitted from year to year.

Rule 2: The final exhibit that a student submits for judging must be his or her own work.

Rule 3: Exhibits must be displayed on a tri-fold display board. (Most grocery stores, art supply stores, and drug stores have these in stock regularly.) Table space is provided, but exhibits cannot require wall space for support.

Rule 4: The overall size of the exhibit, when properly displayed, must be no larger than 32 inches wide, 30 inches deep, and 6 feet high.

Rule 5: No commercial kits may be used for the exhibit. Everything possible should be made by the student although a limited number of commercial figures may be used in conjunction with an appropriate student-constructed exhibit.

Rule 6: Exhibits must be accompanied by a report. The report must include the following:

1. A title page, including the title and the student's grade level
2. An explanation of the historical event or theme of the exhibit and its significance
3. Conclusion and supporting evidence
4. A bibliography of the sources used

The report must be handwritten (four pages maximum) or typed (two pages maximum) by the student. These totals do not include the title page or bibliography. Younger children, of course, are not expected to write as much as older children.

DO NOT put the student's name any place on the exhibit or report. An assigned ID number will be placed on the exhibit when it's brought in for display.

Rule 7: Any media devices must fit within the size limits outlined in RULE 4. Viewers and judges must be able to control media devices when a student is not present. Sound may not run more than two minutes. Audio used in an exhibit should be functional. For example, a brief excerpt from an oral interview or a dramatic reading might be appropriate, but commentary or analysis is inappropriate.

Rule 8: Every entry must have a title which is clearly visible. The title can be only the name of the topic, but an imaginative title will attract the interest of the judges and visitors at the far, as well as convey the subject of the entry.

Rule 9: History Fair officials and sponsors are not responsible for loss or damage to exhibits, equipment, or personal belongings at the fair. Because the fair is in a public area and open to the public, the entrant must expect some wear and tear on exhibits.

The student's exhibits will be evaluated on the following:

- Entry is historically and geographically accurate
- Shows analysis and interpretation, not just description
- Places topic in historical and geographical context
- Shows wide research and use of primary sources
- Presentation is balanced
- Presentation of topic is original and creative
- Text: clear, grammatical, correct spelling, articulate
- Organization: thesis, body, conclusion
- Paper is well presented and neatly prepared

Although all work must be done by the student, parent/guardian encouragement and cooperation will be appreciated.

Additional Suggestions

Topics should be focused and worded so they can be well conveyed in an exhibit format. All research information should be gathered before beginning the final layout of the exhibit. Students should keep in mind the visual emphasis of this category as they carry out their research. Because of size and space limitations, visual and written materials should be included to present the facts, since a clear and concise visual presentation is the students' goal. The final product must be self-explanatory to anyone looking at the exhibit.

There will often be more research material gathered than can be used in the exhibit. It is important to select the most relevant of the available materials.

The exhibit should have visual impact and invite exploration. The subject should be immediately evident, and each part of the exhibit should relate to, and illustrate or expand on the subject. The title should be an important visual part of the exhibit as well as functional to convey the meaning of the topic.

All illustrations should be large and clear enough to be seen and easily understood. Color can often be used effectively to emphasize and coordinate the various parts of an exhibit.

Exhibits must be transported to the gymnasium. Sturdy backing should be used, but it must be manageable. When models are part of the project, they should be well constructed and carefully packed. It is a good idea to bring extra materials/tools for unexpected repairs. The school will not provide extension cords.

History Fair Entry Form

Student's Name _____ Grade _____

Briefly describe your project:

Please estimate the amount of table space required by your project:

Parent's signature _____ Date _____

**Please return to your child's teacher no later than
Friday, March 25th.**