



IMAGINE FOUNDATIONS AT LEELAND

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“Developing dynamic individuals through hard work, academic achievement, and character education.”

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Your child will be taking part in an exciting school event, a STEM fair. Our STEM fair will take place on **Friday, February 17th. In case of inclement weather we will have the fair on the following Friday, February 24th.** STEM fairs can be one of the most exciting parts of the entire school curriculum. It provides children with an opportunity to explore the mysteries and marvels of the world in which we live, and to develop an appreciation for the work of scientists. Yet, for many families, the announcement of an upcoming science fair can be an anxious time. Parents and children ask, “How do we get started?” “Where do we get the information?” “What should my final project look like?”, and “How much time do we need?”

Your child’s science teacher will provide a thorough, systematic approach to developing a successful science fair project. Students should discuss their project with their teacher. They will be guided step-by-step in choosing a topic for their final project. This will include:

- ❖ How to plan and develop a project
- ❖ Sources of information and guidance
- ❖ A successful science fair display
- ❖ Potential ideas and projects
- ❖ How to assemble a project and write an abstract
- ❖ A timeline to ensure the project is not completed the night before it is due

The intent of the fair is to help your child enjoy the process of science discovery. Success is defined by how well your child uses creative and investigative thinking skills to discover more about his/her world. What better opportunity for your child to develop such skills than to participate in a STEM fair? The thinking skills a child develops while constructing a science fair project are the same basic skills he or she will use daily through his or her life, to sense and clarify problems that exist, and to find creative solutions to those problems.

We encourage you to support your child’s efforts at every stage, guiding and encouraging whenever necessary. Parents sometimes want to build an entire project, to make it “perfect.” It is more important that your children wrestle with the problems and try to solve them for themselves, because learning is doing. Again, guide your child but let the final project reflect your child’s individual effort and design. **Due to the fact that we are unable to obtain the STEM journal this year we are requiring each student to print their own at www1.pgcps.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=218806.** (It’s recommended to punch holes in the journal and place it in a binder.)

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child’s science teacher.

Thank you in advance for your support,
Jessica Doughty
STEM Fair Coordinator

STEM Fair Rules

1. Each student may enter only one project.
2. Each project must be displayed on a background, no more than 24 inches deep and 36 inches wide.
3. Projects must be turned in according to the due dates on the timeline. Students who turn in a final project, but have not completed assignments cannot earn more than a “D”. **Late projects will not be accepted.** Students who do not turn in a science fair project will not receive higher than a “C” for their third quarter science grade. **Science Fair Project Grades count for 25% of the third quarter grade.**
4. Projects involving any type of animal, including humans are **NOT ALLOWED** in the science fair.
5. There will be no demonstrations at the fair. Even when the student is present. Photographs or drawings are a good alternative.
6. No open flames are permitted.
7. Dangerous drugs, chemicals, and sharp objects are not permitted.
8. **ALL PROJECTS MUST BE TYPED!!** If your child does not have access to a computer at home, he/she can go to any public library or ask his/her science teacher for times in class or after school.
9. All items displayed at the Science Fair are entered at the risk of the exhibitor. Neither the school nor the sponsors assume responsibility for the loss or damage to any part of the exhibit. **DO NOT USE DISPLAYS. USE PHOTOGRAPHS**
10. Students will present their projects to judges and peers. All students should practice and be prepared for their oral presentation.
11. All awards will be given according to the decision of the judges. These decisions are final.

Please keep this for your records and return bottom portion

I have read the Science Fair letter, due dates, and rules. I agree to complete a project by the assigned dates. I will do my best and follow all Science Fair Rules.

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____ **I have read the Science Fair letter, due dates, and rules. I understand that this project is an important part of my child’s grade in Science for the second quarter.**

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

IMPORTANT-READ!

PSAT™ 8/9

***Leeland
8th grade***

Information for Parents

What is the PSAT™ 8/9?

The PSAT 8/9 is an assessment given to eighth- and ninth-graders that is closely aligned to the SAT®, PSAT/NMSQT®, and PSAT™ 10. It consists of questions in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and in Math.

What are the benefits of taking the PSAT 8/9 assessment?

It helps establish a baseline for students as they enter high school and begin preparing for college and career readiness. It also provides students with better access to data and personalized study through the online College Board and Khan Academy® resources.

When will my student take the PSAT 8/9 assessment?

It will be administered during class time on the following date: *Next Friday 12/9/16*

How should my student prepare? *8:30-12:30*

The best preparation is to deeply engage in classroom learning and practice skills over time. On test day, your student should answer all the questions to the best of his or her ability. It will also help if he or she gets plenty of sleep the night before test day.

What should my student bring on test day?

Your student will need two No. 2 pencils with soft erasers, an acceptable calculator, and (optionally) his or her student ID number or Social Security number.

How long will the assessment take and how many questions are there?

Actual testing time is 2 hours and 25 minutes. There are 42 Reading questions, 40 Writing and Language questions, and 38 Math questions.

Some students will take a fifth section that takes an additional 20 minutes.

What should my student do if he or she doesn't know an answer?

Your student may encounter some difficult questions that he or she does not know how to answer. Advise your student not to get discouraged if this happens, but to answer every question to the best of his or her ability.

A message for parents

The PSAT 8/9 assessment will help your student prepare for the future. By taking the PSAT 8/9, your student will learn which skills he or she needs to work on for continued success through high school and college. In addition, the PSAT 8/9 will identify areas where your student excels and may want to consider taking higher-level courses, as well as areas he or she should focus on to improve academically. Please note that PSAT 8/9 scores are not sent to colleges.

How does my student receive PSAT 8/9 scores?

Your student will get a paper score report at school with a unique code giving him or her access to a robust online score report. The scores reported will grow to include every test your student takes that is part of the SAT Suite of Assessments (see collegeboard.org/sat-suite for more information).

The online experience is designed to help you and your student understand the scores better and to use the feedback to build new skills based on a detailed breakdown of your student's performance.



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TURN →

Fri. 12/2/16



This school year, for 8th graders who have already submitted applications for any high school specialty programs in the county, by the deadline, their PSAT scores will be used to determine their entry vs. the Specialty Program Entrance Exam scores in the past.

ALL 8th grade students, on record, and present at school **NEXT FRIDAY 12/9/16** are registered to take the PSAT 8/9, regardless of if they are applying to a high school specialty program.

If you should have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pike (School Test Coordinator) at the school.

Thank you.

Please note: County Mandate –

There will be NO MAKE UP TESTING for the PSAT 8/9.