Science Fair Syllabus Th (9:00-10:30)  Session 3
Instructor: Laura Erlig

Objective:
A science fair is an exciting opportunity to promote, encourage, showcase and reward the achievements of students in diverse fields of science. Students will go through the exciting process of creating sample science fair projects, priming them to develop their own ideas for the Ventura County Science Fair (March 27, and registration due no later than February 6). Laura will guide students through the scientific process, via various high-interest project-based activities and lessons.

Although entry into the VC Science Fair is not required to take this course, students will be highly encouraged to do so, as they will be learning how to plan, research, and defend their great science ideas! Science Fair class will build upon these ideas and focus more on results, interpreting data, communicating the outcomes of students’ research, and writing abstracts. Students will be given opportunities to work on their poster board in class, and collaborate on their reports and abstracts. At the end of this course, we will be presenting our work in class, in preparation for the Ventura County Science Fair.

Dates of Assignments:
Assignment due the first day 1/16.
Please Read the Rule book for the Science Fair:

https://www.vcoe.org/Competitions/Science-Fair/Educator-Student-Parent

Please purchase the required display board described in the Rule Book on the above link. Please bring it to class on February 27th.

Choose a topic: Ideas can come from the below website, if you need ideas. Please write idea for topic on index card and turn in on Jan. 16th.
https://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project-ideas

Jan 16- turn in index card with Topic. Learn about how to research your topic and what a Science Fair is all about. Have your topic and research it unexplained or unexpected results and talk to professionals in that field. Organize and write a testable hypothesis or engineering objective. Unique idea is 30% of the judge’s rubric. This is why looking at your topic, researching it and speaking with other professionals is so important. Discuss recording results to experiment and drawing designs for Engineering projects are so important.

HW: Read how to record results. Run experiment or build prototype. Results or prototype due 1/23.

Jan 23  Bring in results, create graph or data tables, analyze, and make conclusions. Go over Abstract Checklist and guidelines. Work on creating an abstract. Go over registration and provide form for entering with supervisor signature.

HW: Complete abstract and ask someone to edit using the checklist. Revise and turn in for my approval.

Jan 30 – Abstract Due
HW: Due Feb. 6th latest – Register online for Ventura County Science Fair:

Feb 6 – Report Writing (Title Page, Table of Contents, Abstract, Research, Materials & Procedures). Go over sample reports to get an idea of what has been presented in the past. Using Google Docs set up that everyone shares their report with me so that I can make comments and suggestions on the report. Work on report in class.

HW: Complete whatever was not completed in class for the sections of the report noted above and asks someone to read over besides me. I will read over as a third set of eyes. Due 2/13.

Feb 13 - Report Writing (Results, discussions, and Conclusions, Acknowledgements, and Bibliography)

HW Complete Report. Ask someone to read over besides me. I will read over as a third set of eyes. Report due 2/20. Please bring two copies of the report. Purchase and bring in display board. Due 2/20

Feb 20 – Turn in report. Go over what is required for display boards and see samples to get ideas. Draft ideas down on designs for approval. Start board.

HW: Gather any materials, colored paper, stickers, cut outs, photos, etc to work on the display board.

Feb 27 - Complete display board and have evaluated by teacher. Discuss oral presentation and give out guidelines.

HW: None

March 5 Catch-up on all work.

March 12 Work on oral presentation and practice presenting

March 19 No Class - Break

March 26 One Spark Academy Science Fair during class time with family and community members. Set-up for Science Fair at Ventura County starts at 2-6 pm on 3/26. Science Fair is March 27th, details to follow.