

Prairie Vista Elementary

# LEARNINGSPHERE

## 2023

### Packet 2



This year's theme by: Milana Merry, Grade 5

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- This packet will give you some important information and reminders about LearningSphere. We can't wait to see your project!
- Packet 1 & 2 will be available on the Prairie Vista Website at <https://prairievista.phmschools.org/learningsphere-display-board-suggestions/>
- More information on LearningSphere can be found at <https://prairievista.phmschools.org/learningsphere-display-board-suggestions/>

## General Information

We are excited that your child is participating in LearningSphere. A neat and interesting display board is one way the student will communicate this to the teachers and judges. **A three-sided, freestanding board not more than 36" wide is required; the entire display cannot be more than 18" deep.** Be sure your child takes his/her time creating the display. One suggestion is to lay everything out on the board first, before gluing. Other display hints can be found in this packet. Display boards may be purchased at a variety of stores including Staples, Office Depot, or United Arts and Education. **Be sure and purchase your display board as soon as possible as the stores sell out quickly during this time of the year.**

The **Project Entry Form** (to be received later from the teacher) must be brought in *with the project on Tuesday, January 31st*. The form will be given to the judges to review so they have a good idea of what the project is about before the student presents his/her project. Students present their projects to their class in order for each teacher to recognize the child's effort and possibly make suggestions on how to improve their discussion with the judges.

**Judging** will take place on *Thursday, February 2nd*. In this packet, you will find the Rubric Evaluation Sheet, which the teachers and judges will use to evaluate your child's project. The Scientific Method referred to on the Science Experiment Rubric is the method specified in the first packet.

We will have an **Open House** on *Thursday, February 2nd*, from 7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. -5:30 p.m. You will be able to see all of the wonderful projects! Be sure to look for the projects selected to go on to Notre Dame for the Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

*Parents need to pick up their child's project at 5:30 p.m. immediately after the open house on Thursday. Please do not pick up projects before this time. If we do not have an open house, we will let you know how to pick up your child's project.*

Thank you for all the time you spend helping to make your child's project a valuable learning experience!

The LearningSphere Committee

# LEARNINGSPIHERE TIMELINE

DATE	EVENT
<u>Tuesday, January 31st</u>	<p>-Project Entry Form Due (This is given to the judges prior to their evaluation of the project.)</p> <p>-Projects due in classroom (Unless otherwise instructed by your teacher.)</p>
<u>Thursday, February 2nd</u>  <p>7:00 A.M. – 7:30 A.M.</p>          <p>2:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.</p>          <p>5:30 P.M.</p>	<p><u>JUDGING DAY for all projects during school hours.</u></p> <p>- Open House for parents &amp; students to view projects together. Please supervise your children so none of the projects get damaged. (Students may not be dropped off at this time unless they are going to Kids Club)</p> <p>- Open House for parents and students to view projects together. Please supervise your children so none of the projects get damaged.</p> <p>- Parents need to pick up ALL projects from the gymnasium to bring home.</p>

# PARENTS!

## DO YOU WONDER WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP?

Parents often ask for ways to help make their child's LearningSphere project more valuable. Determining the right amount of parental help is the heart of the problem. How much do I help? What things should I do? Am I doing too much? These are common questions. To keep this activity as positive as possible, keep in mind these suggestions.

1. Help your child narrow down their subject or topic to a workable size.
2. Help your child find research materials. **Get them in touch with a local expert or professor who can help them think through their ideas.** You may need to help read highly technical material or put the information in terms that the child can comprehend.
3. Help the child set up an organizational method that works for them. (What will you do first? What will you do next?) Help your child make a timeline in order to complete the project by the due date.
4. Help the child decide what materials will be needed to complete the project. (Do we have the materials you need? Where will we get them?)
5. Help your child find a place to keep all their materials together.
6. Help your child organize the final display for the project. The display board must be a three-sided, freestanding board not more than 36" wide and 18" deep. Any writing must be in the child's own words. Please remind your child to display their name clearly on their board.
7. Help your child practice presenting the project.
8. The ultimate goal is to have your child be proud of their own work and accomplishments in learning.
9. Be supportive! Be positive! Have fun!

## HINTS for DISPLAYING a SCIENCE EXPERIMENT PROJECT

1. Create an exhibit that clearly explains your project (see diagram for ideas) 2.

Your exhibit should include:

- your name and grade
- your project title
- your purpose or question
- your hypothesis
- the procedure by which you collected your information
- the materials used
- your observations and data
- your discussion of the data and the results of repeated experiments displayed
- your conclusions about the experiment
- a journal or log explaining your progress

3. Your display board should include the following:

- a three-sided, freestanding board that is not more than 36" wide and 18" deep
- visuals, charts, graphs, or pictures
- name and grade

4. Your display board will be evaluated on the following:

- organization
- neatness: make sure everything is clear and easy to read
- information on display is meaningful for project
- the overall display is colorful, attractive, and interesting

**NOTE: Please see packet 1 for the scientific method process and examples of science experiments.**

## HINTS for DISPLAYING GENERAL RESEARCH PROJECT

1. Create an exhibit that clearly explains your project.  
(see diagram for ideas)

2. Your exhibit should include:

- your name and grade
- your project title
- general research found on your topic
- various sub-topics or categories displayed
- an explanation of what you found in each sub-topic
- some fun facts or any additional information found in your research
- your summary or conclusion
- a list of the sources you used

3. Your display board should include the following:

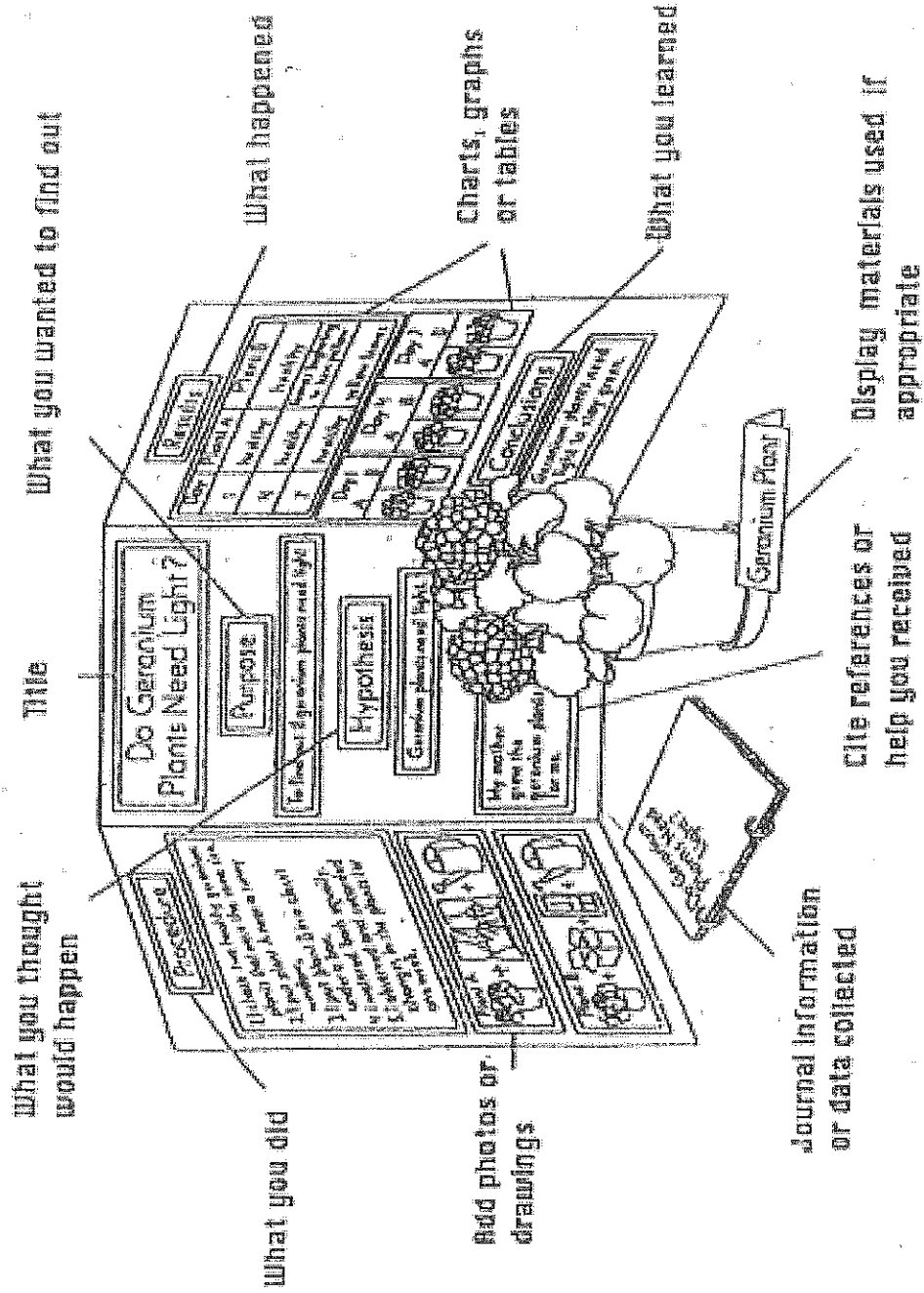
- a three-sided, freestanding board that is not more than 36" wide and 18" deep
- visuals, charts, graphs, or pictures
- name and grade

4. Your display board will be evaluated on the following:

- organization
- neatness: make sure everything is clear and easy to read
- information on display is meaningful for project
- the overall display is colorful, attractive, and interesting

**NOTE: Please see packet 1 for the general research project process and examples of research projects.**

# Displaying a LearningSphere Project



## **PRESENTING YOUR PROJECT TO THE JUDGES**

The best way to prepare for the judging is to practice, practice, practice! Be enthusiastic and proud of your project. The judges are not looking to find something wrong. Rather, they want to hear about what you learned and how you learned it! If you are able to talk about your project and answer questions easily, the judges will know that you did your work well and understand what you did.

1. Have a thorough understanding of your project and be able to explain each step of your process clearly. If your project is in the science experiment category, be prepared to demonstrate that you know and understand the scientific method. This should also be reflected in your project!
2. Be able to discuss all major points of your project.
3. Be prepared to share your knowledge. (What new things did you learn from your project? How can you apply what you learned? Did you like doing your project? What was your favorite part?)
4. Do your best to keep eye contact when you speak to the judges; be polite and respectful.
5. If you don't know the answer to a question the judges ask, don't make up an answer or give false information. Sometimes the judges ask questions about things that might not have come up in your research, just to help you think about your project in a different way!
6. The judges will be looking for creativity, original thought, thoroughness, skill, and clarity of presentation.



# GENERAL RESEARCH LEARNINGSPIHERE EVALUATION RUBRIC

(math, science research, social studies, fine arts and media)

<b><u>Project Content</u></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
	Presenter shows strong evidence of research and data collection; purpose was clearly stated and presenter identified things learned from project without hesitation	Presenter shows evidence of research; purpose can be identified and presenter is able to state information gained from project	Presenter lacks research and is somewhat able to explain purpose and knowledge learned	Presenter has no research, very little knowledge of purpose or topic, and is unable to restate what he/she learned
<b>Comments:</b>				
<b><u>Content/ Presentation</u></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
	Eye contact continuous; strong speaking voice; material well understood, can answer questions and discuss results	Eye contact consistent; good speaking voice; material well rehearsed for presentation, can answer basic questions	Attempts eye contact; speaking voice fluctuates; material is prepared, presenter has difficulty answering questions	Little or no eye contact; low speaking voice (mumbles); material poorly prepared, unable to answer questions
<b>Comments:</b>				
<b><u>Board Display/ Visuals</u></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
	Board is attractive, creative, interesting, and informative; information on display is meaningful for project	Board is neat and organized; information on display gives a clear message about project	Board is plain-looking and lacks organization; information displayed does not fully convey the project message	Board is sloppy, disorganized, and confusing; information displayed is not connected with the project
<b>Comments:</b>				

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Project #: \_\_\_\_\_

Y N

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## SCIENCE EXPERIMENT EVALUATION RUBRIC

	4	3	2	1
<b><u>Scientific Method/Content</u></b>	Presenter obviously knows scientific method and project; correctly shows all steps; very comfortable with research done; identifies things learned from project without hesitation	Presenter knows and uses scientific method; knows subject matter; is able to state information gained from project	Presenter uses some steps of scientific method; has some knowledge of topic; is somewhat able to explain what he/she learned	Presenter is missing several steps from scientific method; very little knowledge of topic; unable to restate what he/she learned

Was a question stated?

Yes	Attempted	No
Yes	Attempted	No
Yes	Attempted	No
Yes	Attempted	No

Was a hypothesis made?

Was the hypothesis tested through self-designed investigation?

Were variables used and controlled?

Was data recorded and interpreted?

Were tests repeated?

Was a conclusion formed?

Were results communicated?

Yes	Attempted	No
Yes	Attempted	No
Yes	Attempted	No
Yes	Attempted	No

Comments:

	4	3	2	1
<b><u>Content/Presentation</u></b>	Eye contact continuous; strong speaking voice; material well understood, can answer questions and discuss results	Eye contact consistent; good speaking voice; material well rehearsed for presentation, can answer basic questions	Attempts eye contact; speaking voice fluctuates; material is prepared, presenter has difficulty answering questions	Little or no eye contact; low speaking voice (mumbles); material poorly prepared, unable to answer questions
Comments:				
	4	3	2	1
<b><u>Board Display/Visuals</u></b>	Board is attractive, creative, interesting, and informative; information on display is meaningful for project	Board is neat and organized; information on display gives a clear message about project	Board is plain-looking and lacks organization; information displayed does not fully convey the project message	Board is sloppy, disorganized, and confusing; information displayed is not connected with the project
Comments:				