

2025-2026 Science Fair Project Schedule*

St. Anthony de Padua School

Assignment	Assignment Description	Due Date & Deliverables
Parent Packet	Students will go over the introductory packet on the Science Fair with their parent(s). Parent Signature required when the topic is proposed. (See “Question” Assignment.)	N/A
Topic Brainstorm	Students brainstorm 5 or more possible topics prior to first conference with Mrs. Dainty. Optional: log in to ScienceBuddies to complete the Topic Selection Wizard	Friday 10/3/25 Topic Brainstorm Handout
Topic Proposal	Students write a specific testable question they would like to investigate. Or, for an engineering project, students define the problem and proposed prototype. <u>Parent Signature Required. Then, teacher approval will finalize topic.</u> Obtain a notebook/folder with brads to use for your science or engineering project ONLY. Must be separate from notebook for class.	Thurs 10/9/25 Turn In “ Science Project Proposal Form ” or “ Engineering Project Proposal Form. ” Turn in Group Agreement if intend to work in a group.
Research Plan & Bibliography Worksheet	The Research Plan is a roadmap of the research questions that need to be answered. The Bibliography is a list of the sources that will be used to answer the research questions. Source Requirement: at least 3 sources, including one offline/non-digital source.	T 10/28/25 Turn In “ Background Plan Worksheet ” and “ Bibliography Worksheet. ”
Research Paper	The purpose of the Research Paper is to provide information to help understand why the experiment turns out the way it does. It should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The history of similar experiments or inventions. ● Definitions of all important words and concepts that describe the experiment. ● Answers to all the background research plan questions. ● Mathematical formulas, if any, that are needed to describe the results of the experiment. 	Th 11/21/25 Turn in your written research report and “ Research Paper Checklist. ”
Variables and Hypothesis	An explanation of which factor(s) will be changed while conducting the experiment and a hypothesis on the resulting impact of the change.	12/5/25 Turn In “ Variables and Hypothesis Worksheet. ”

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Materials and Procedures	A detailed list of the materials that will be used to conduct the experiment and the detailed steps that will be followed while conduct the experiment	12/12/25 Write materials list , including units and amounts. Write experimental procedure steps .
Conducting the Experiment	Minimum Trials: 3 runs of experiment. If students are working with plants, they should have 3 plants for each variable tested. Projects with human subjects should have more than 3; see resource in Google Classroom.	1/9/26 Observations, data tables, etc. in notebook.
Data Analysis and Graphs	The analysis of the experimental data. A summary of the findings of the experiment.	1/16/26 Results Section in lab report. (At least 1 data table, 1 graph and a written summary of results.)
Conclusions	An explanation of the results of the experiment.	1/23/26 Conclusion Paragraph(s) in lab report.
Final Report and Quad Chart	A report that collects all the above written assignments in one place plus a quad chart summary of the project.	1/29/26
Display Board	The final project board that will be displayed at the project expo night and during judging. (Note: poster text can typically be same or similar to lab report.)	1/29/26
School Science Fair	Students will display and present their projects. Judges will score projects and winners may advance to the Regional Science Fair.	1/30/26
Regional Science Fair	Qualifying students may advance to the Northern Indiana Regional Science Fair, held at Notre Dame.	2/28/26
State Science Fair	Qualifying students from the Regional level fair may advance to the State fair in Indianapolis, IN.	3/28/26

*Please note, this is a tentative calendar. Dates and due dates may need to be changed due to unforeseen circumstances or student needs, but changes will be communicated as quickly as possible if so. The last due dates in bold are unlikely to change and are considered final due dates. JH Expo night is scheduled for the evening of January 29th. (Mandatory attendance; parents can view projects.)

**Projects involving human subjects require additional paperwork. A project proposal must be submitted by the background research paper due date to be reviewed by an Institutional Review Board. Approval must be obtained, and consent forms must be created and collected prior to experimentation.