THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
1960 LANDINGS BOULEVARD, SARASOTA, FL 34231
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ELEMENTARY SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM) FAIR APPLICATION/SAFETY ASSESSMENT/MEDIA RELEASE

Instructions: Form must be completed and approved BEFORE starting project. Signature dates must reflect this timeline. Student must complete a new form if the project changes from the information below.

Student Name _____ Student No. _____ Grade _____

Project Type ☐ Experiment ☐ Engineering

Testable Question/Problem Statement _____

_____

Project Title _____

Team Member(s) (if a group project) _____

Project data collection dates (Start date must be after this form is signed) Start Date _____ End Date _____

Location of experiment (check all that apply) ☐ School ☑ Home ☐ Other _____

School Name Venice Elementary School School Phone 941-486-2111

School Address 150 Miami Ave E., Venice, FL 34285

By signing below, the Student/Parent/Guardian/Classroom Teacher acknowledge:

1. I have read and understand the STEM Fair Safety Guidelines on page 2 of this form.
2. I can state my question, explain how I will complete the experiment (including procedures and materials), and who will supervise my work. My teacher and I have reviewed the rules and guidelines and I will adhere to these rules while conducting this research. I understand the risks and possible dangers to me of the proposed research plan.
3. I have read and will abide by the following ethics statement:
   Scientific fraud and misconduct are not condoned at any level of research or competition. Such practices include but are not limited to plagiarism, forgery, use or presentation of other researcher's work as one's own, and fabrication ofdata. Fraudulent projects will fail to qualify for competition in affiliated fairs.
4. I understand that student projects entered in the Sarasota County Schools Virtual STEM Fair are required to have a student video, project logbook, and virtual presentation viewable online by community judges. I hereby consent that all photographs and/or video images, including voice or written recordings, taken of me and/or my child, during participation in the STEM Fair may be used in whole or part by the School Board of Sarasota County and the STEM Fair or by others with the permission of the STEM Fair Directors at their discretion. Such use may include but not be limited to inclusion in judging, illustration, advertising, or publication in any manner. By digitally signing below, I hereby give the School Board of Sarasota County and the STEM Fair permission to release photos, video footage, and comments relative to my child's participation in the Virtual STEM Fair.

Student Name (Print)	Student Signature	Date
Parent/Guardian Name (Print)	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
Classroom Teacher/School Coordinator (Print)	Classroom Teacher/School Coordinator Signature	Date

Parent Email _____

Distribution: Original-Teacher Copies-Parent/Guardian

RET: Master, 3 SY, GS7 91

ELEMENTARY (STEM) FAIR APPLICATION/SAFETY ASSESSMENT/MEDIA RELEASE

STEM Fair Safety Guidelines

Before the student starts the science project, time should be taken to think about possible safety issues associated with the project. Projects should be the work of students and be monitored by parents/guardians.

The Sarasota County Schools STEM Fair affiliates with the State Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF) and the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). While our elementary students cannot participate at the state or international level, we still use their safety rules and guidelines to determine "minimal risk". Minimal risk is described as no more than minimal risk exists when the probability and magnitude of harm or discomfort anticipated in the research are not greater (in and of themselves) than those ordinarily encountered in everyday life. More than minimal risk exists when the possibility of physical or psychological harm is greater than what is typically encountered in everyday life.

Students may not complete a project at the elementary level if there is more than minimal risk. An easy way to determine if more than **minimal risk** has been met, is by adhering to the SSEF and ISEF rules for safety. If a student at the secondary level (grades 6-12) would need a safety form signed by the Safety Review Committee for the experiment, it is deemed more than minimal risk.

Below is a summary of each category of project that are considered **more than minimal risk**, along with an example implication for reference.

Human Participants

Rule: All use of human participants must have a special safety form completed.

Implications: Students may not complete projects that include human participants (surveys or test subjects). For example, testing music on a class to see if classical or rock makes the scores increase.

Vertebrate Animal

Rule: All projects involving a vertebrate animal must have a special safety form completed.

Implications: Students may not complete projects with vertebrates. For example, a student can't experiment to see what type of toy their dog likes best.

Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents

Rule: Any use of potentially hazardous biological agents needs a special safety form completed, whether the use is intended or unintended.

Implications: Students may not complete projects that include bacteria, fungi, or viruses. For example, students cannot grow mold or ripen fruit (potential for biological agent growth).

Hazardous Chemicals, Activities, or Devices

Rule: Any use of hazardous chemicals, activities, or devices requires a special safety form completed.

Implications:

- Students cannot use hazardous chemicals in their project. For example, students should not be using bleach, detergent, fertilizers, dry ice, or nail polish remover.
- Students cannot be involved in hazardous activities. For example, risk of drowning when testing near a body of water.
- Students cannot be involved in hazardous devices. For example, students should not be using power tools in the investigation.

Work in the Field

Rule: Students need a special safety form completed if they are doing the investigation on private or public property.

Implications: Students cannot do an investigation at the local park to test water quality.

If unclear on the risk level, visit the following link:

https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/rules-for-all-projects/

https://sseffflorida.com/rules/