



# The Kennedy STEM Spotlight

January 6, 2016

## STEM Events at Kennedy Middle School

### Kennedy's Science and Engineering Fair

On Wednesday, December 16, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students shared their science and engineering fair projects with friends, family, and staff. Students have been preparing for this fair since September and as anyone could see they did an amazing job!

Some students chose to focus on the **scientific method** by generating a question, making a hypothesis, carrying out an experiment, collecting data, and drawing conclusions. Other students chose the work of an **engineer** where they identified a problem, devised a solution, created a prototype, created a final product, tested it and redesigned if necessary.

Students completed all work at home while having weekly or bi-weekly check-ins with one of the following staff members: Mr. Wardwell (6<sup>th</sup> science), Ms. Robles (8<sup>th</sup> science), Ms. Kelly (6<sup>th</sup> science), or Ms. Grgurina (STEM Coordinator).

Congratulations to ALL students who participated and shared their wonderful work! Being involved with the fair was optional and not graded, so we want to give a big shout out to these students!

Be sure to check out the science and engineering fair pictures on the following pages!

### Science and Engineering Fair Participants

Jonna Belin, Elise Carter, Justin Tubay, Jorge Yagual, Matthew Lippincott, Brian Kim, Tori-Ana McNeil, Jonathan Rehrig, Alexander Rehrig, Katie Dull, Gerson Grande, Estephany Mazariegos, Ariana Guerrero, Mudra Yajurvedi, Patricia Ramos, Kaylen Torres, Brandon Gaviola, Bao Dang, Dang Tran, Tanusree Chepuri, Elijah Bakker, Sasha Skinner, Jahmir White, Jason Nisely, Giselle Boisson, Taylor Cyr, Bhuvani Saravanan, Jonathan Russell, and Jacob Vergara

### Regional Fair, Here We Come!

***These students will be moving onto the Regional Science and Engineering Fair at UNCC in February!***

Jonna and Elise, Tori-Ana, Jonathan Rehrig, Alexander, Katie, Estephany and Ariana, Patricia and Kaylen, Tanusree, Jahmir, Taylor, Bhuvani, and Jonathan Russell and Jacob

# STEM in the Classroom

## Earthquake-coming up!

**6<sup>th</sup> grade students** will soon be learning about the various types of earthquake waves and the destruction they can bring. To put them to the test, students will be given a challenge to build earthquake resistant structures next Tuesday, January 12 with popsicle sticks and mini-marshmallows.

## Dissection Time

**6<sup>th</sup> grade** students wrapped up their cow eye ball dissections in December. Students were able to see what each part of the eye looks like and where each part was located. Most importantly, students understand the function of each part.

In the **7<sup>th</sup> grade** Life Science curriculum, students are studying body systems. In order to help students gain an understanding of how anatomical structures carry out life processes, they will be performing a frog dissection. Students will be able to identify the similarities and differences between frog and human organ systems.

## Using the STEM Habits in Social Studies Class

In **Ms. Houtsma's** social studies class, students have finished learning about the characteristics of a civilization. Next, students took on the task of designing their own civilization from the ground up. They named their civilization, identified the populations, determined geography, imports/exports, a defense system and created a flag. After planning this, they used everyday materials like Legos, cardboard, tape, etc. to build their civilization.



## Notable News!



### Dash and Dot Robotics Wonder Challenge

Congratulations to Bayla, Harrison, Jonathan, and Alexander for becoming the NC State Champions of the Dash and Dot Robotics Wonder Challenge! These boys worked together during PL, some mornings or after school to program our friendly robot, Dash, in order to solve 7 missions presented to them by the Wonder App.

The boys used various codes to guide Dash around many space-like obstacles on a gridded playing field. **Check out their work here on YouTube:**

<https://youtu.be/hdFknMH3gDs>

### FTC Robotics Team Scrimmage

Good luck to our FTC Robotics team in their first scrimmage at Imaginon on Saturday, January 16!

## Upcoming Events

January 16-First Robotics FTC Scrimmage at Imaginon

January 18-no school (Martin Luther King Day)

January 20-end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and Early Release Day

January 21-3<sup>rd</sup> quarter begins

January 25-no school (Teacher Workday)

January 27 and 29: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to the Schiele Museum (Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils and a Squid Dissection)

## Kennedy's STEM Habits of Thinking

We encourage our students to apply these habits of thinking in all of their classrooms.

These are also skills and habits that people from a variety of careers exhibit on a daily basis.

**Inquire**

**Collaborate**

**Investigate**

**Innovate**

**Design**

**Reflect**

## Guest Speakers

Doctors from Charlotte Ear, Nose, and Throat came to Kennedy to speak to our 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

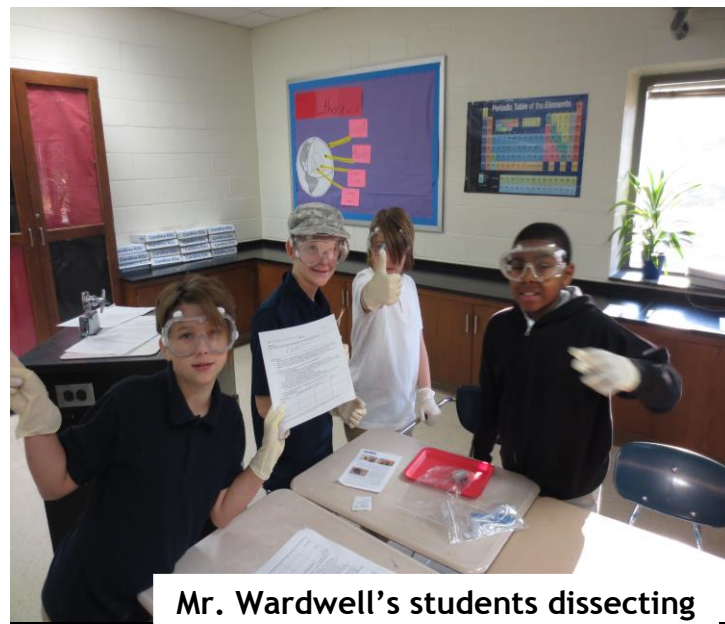
Each doctor spoke about their job as an ophthalmologist or an otolaryngologist, what they like about their career, and how to obtain a job in that field.

In addition, the **ophthalmologist** talked about the parts of the eye and explained a few diseases that can affect the eye. He even shared a video of a surgery performed to remove a cataract. The **otolaryngologist** used a scope to look inside his assistant's throat. He explained how the ear, nose, and throat are all connected and work together.

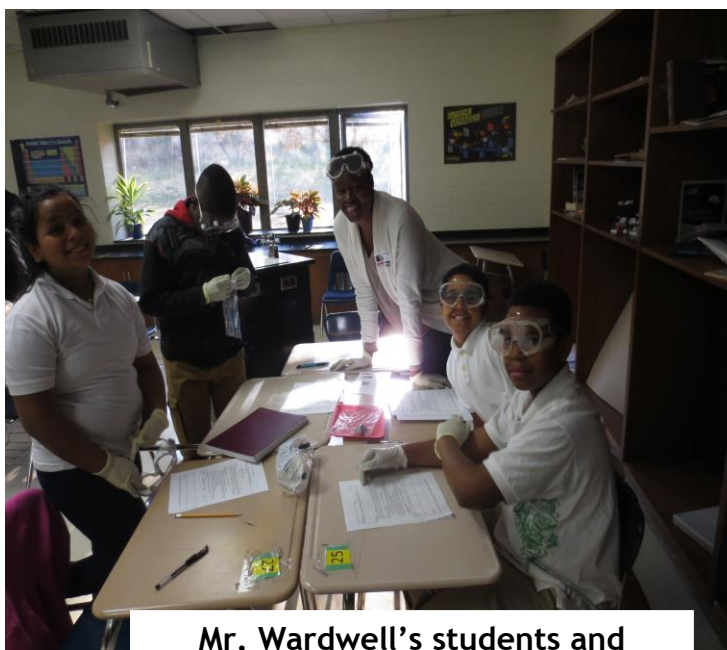
## Photo Gallery



**Mr. Wardwell's students and parent dissecting a cow eyeball**



**Mr. Wardwell's students dissecting a cow eyeball**



**Mr. Wardwell's students and parent dissecting a cow eyeball**



**Mr. Wardwell's students dissecting a cow eyeball**

## Photo Gallery



**Mr. Wardwell's students  
dissecting a cow eyeball**



**Ms. Kelly's students and parent  
dissecting a cow eyeball**



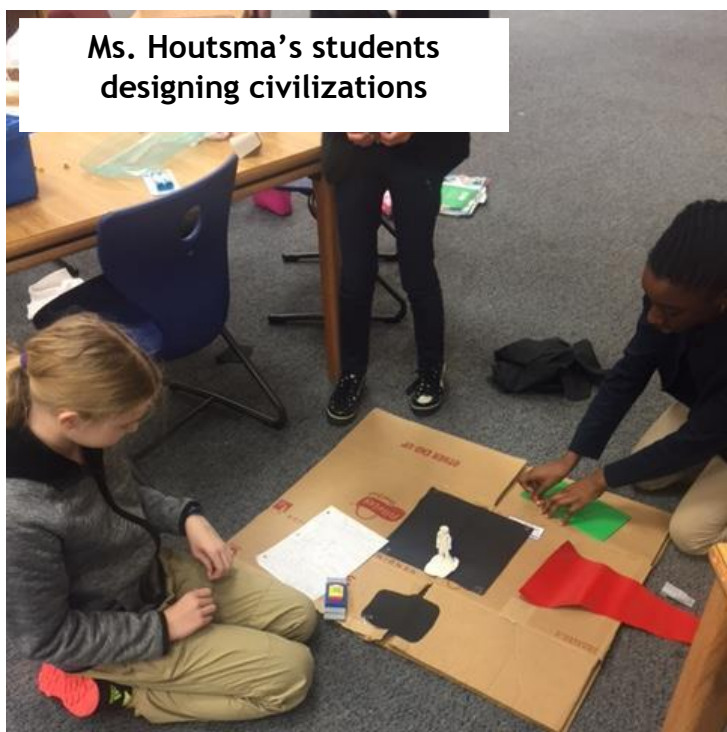
**Ms. Kelly's students  
dissecting a cow eyeball**



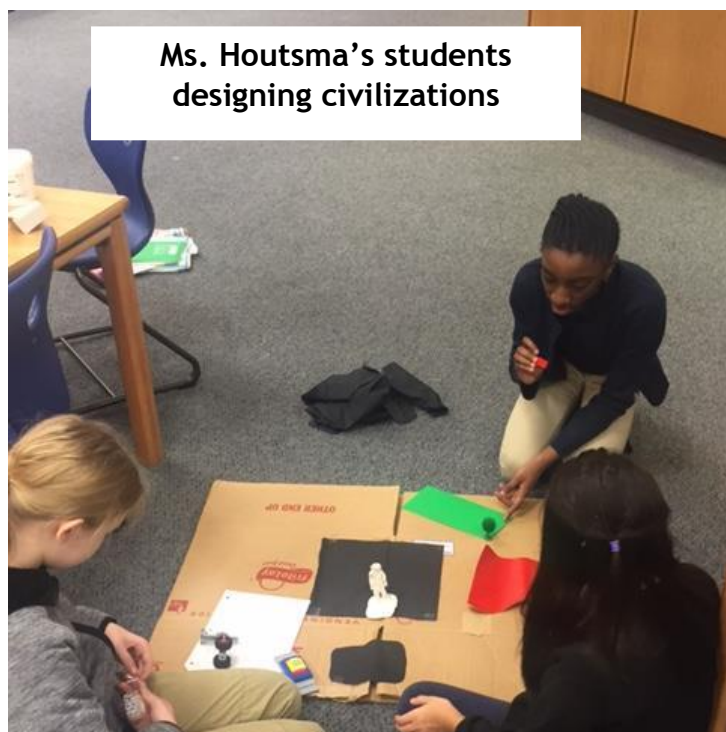
**Ms. Houtsma's students  
designing civilizations**

# Photo Gallery

Ms. Houtsma's students designing civilizations



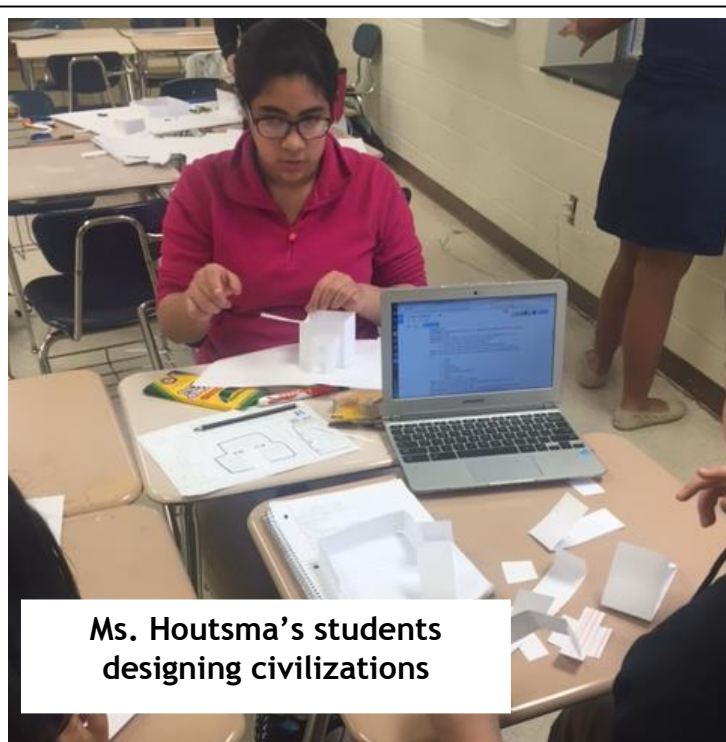
Ms. Houtsma's students designing civilizations



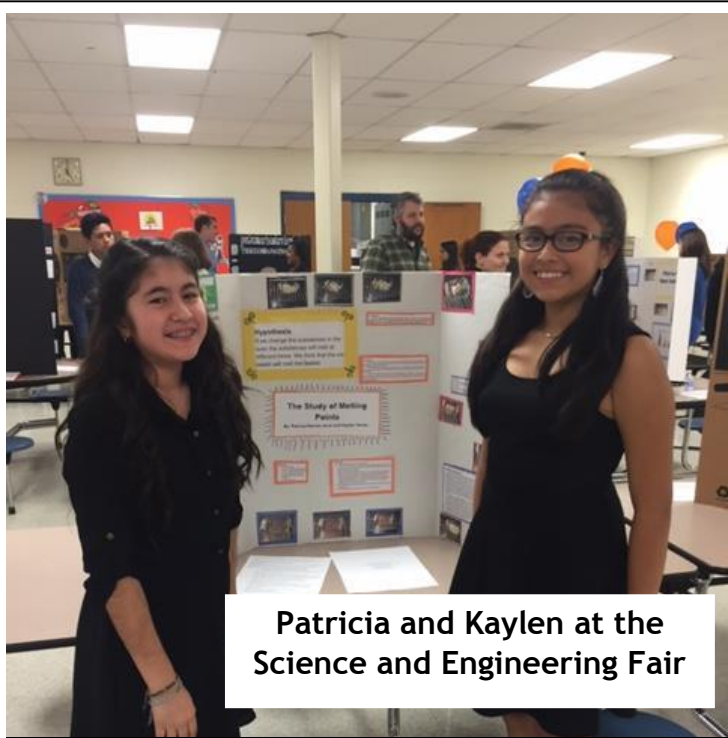
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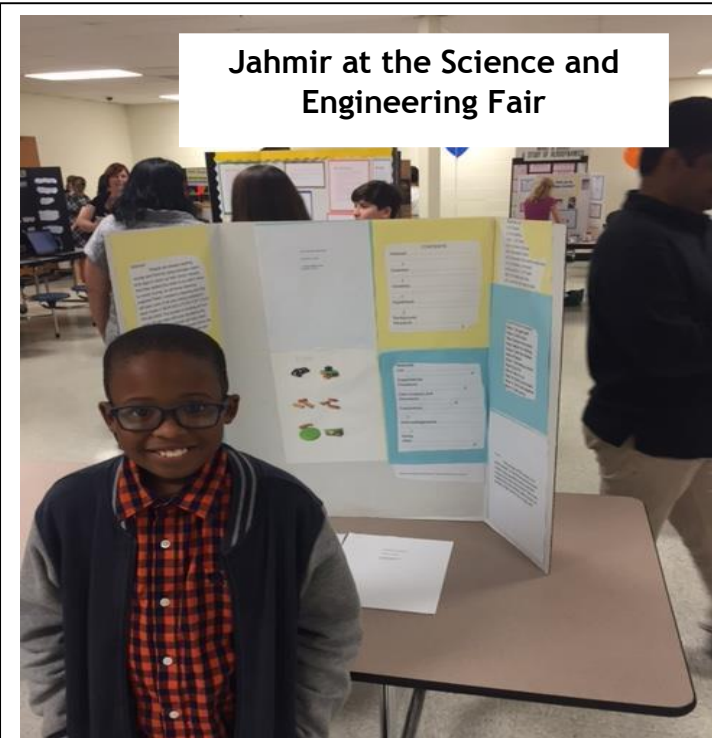
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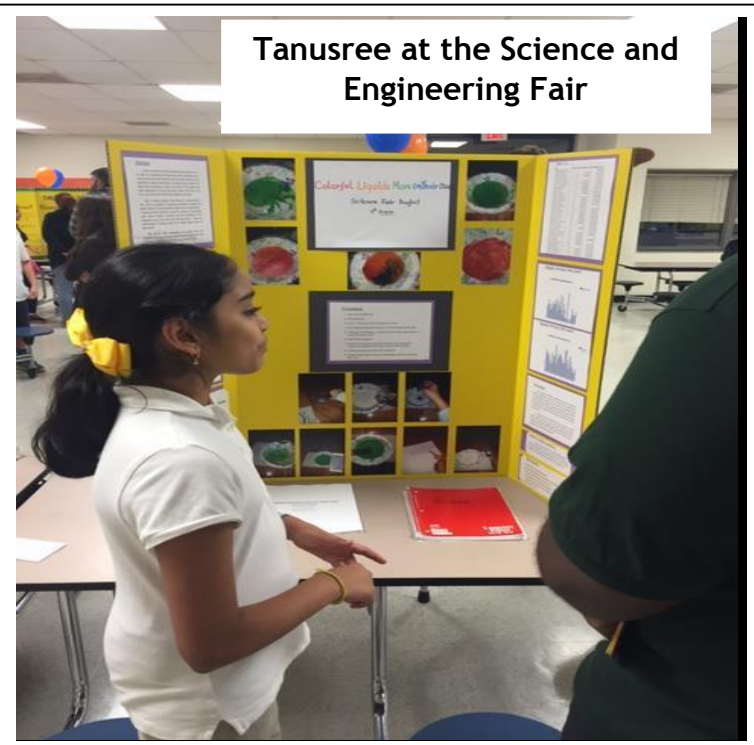
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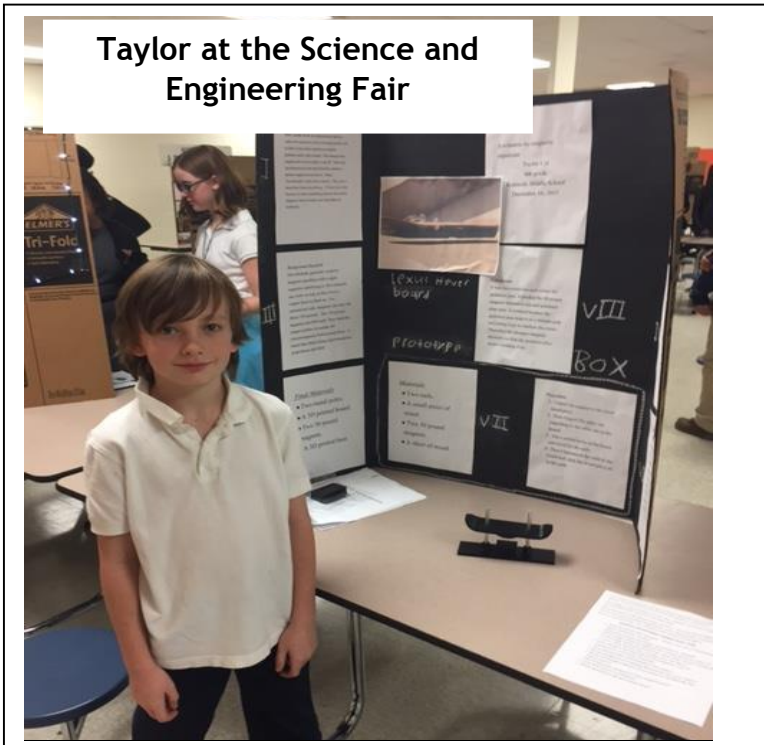
**Patricia and Kaylen at the Science and Engineering Fair**



**Jahmir at the Science and Engineering Fair**



**Tanusree at the Science and Engineering Fair**



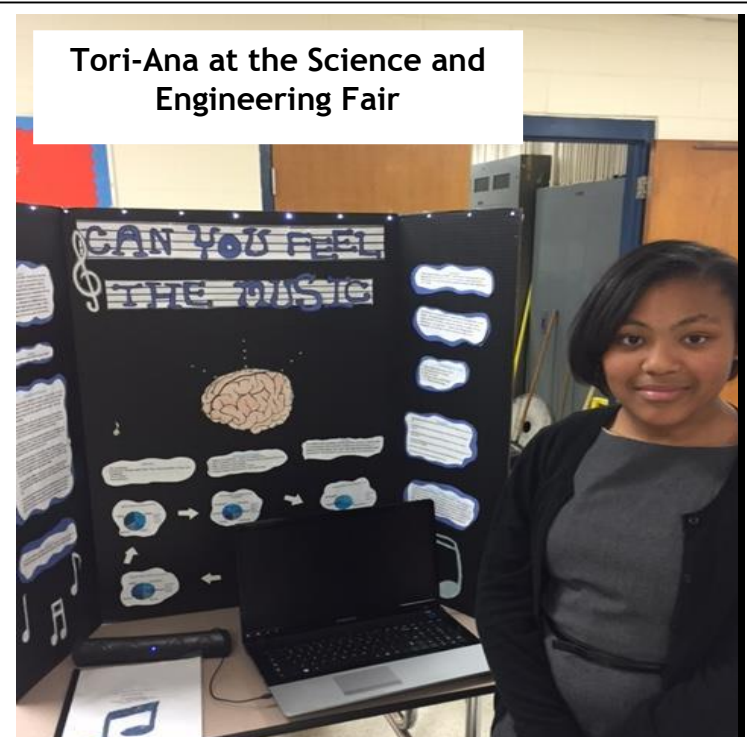
**Taylor at the Science and Engineering Fair**

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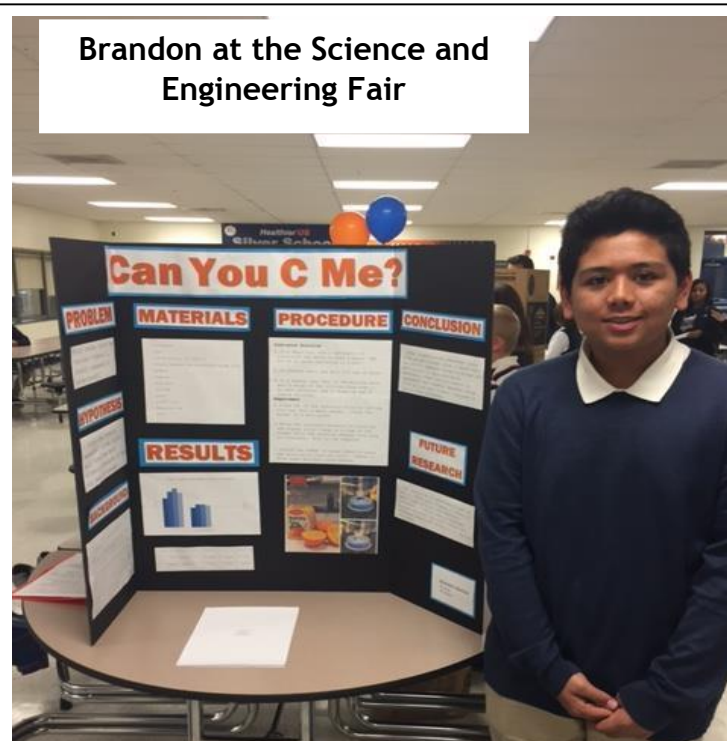
Elijah (partner Sasha) at the Science and Engineering Fair



Tori-Ana at the Science and Engineering Fair



Brandon at the Science and Engineering Fair

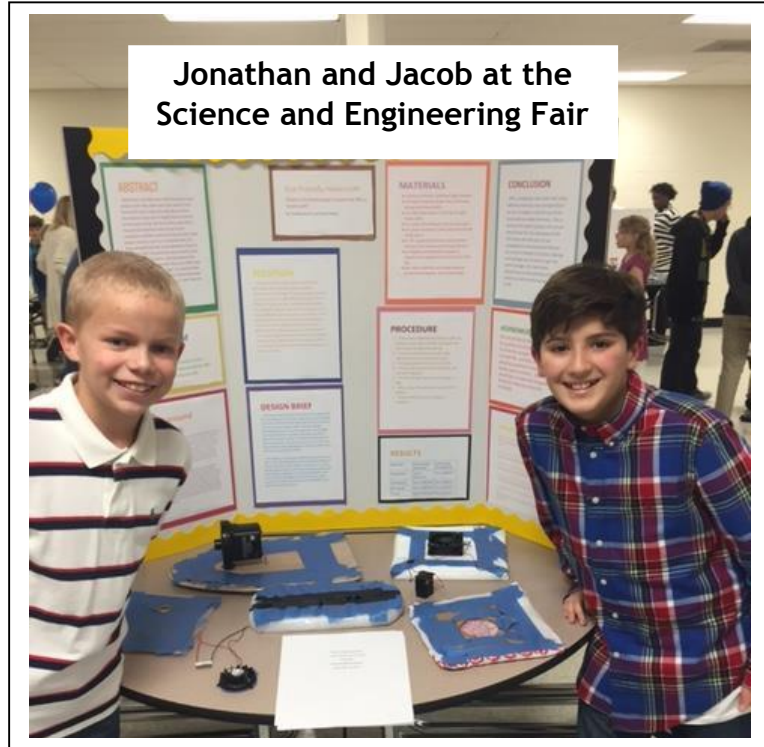
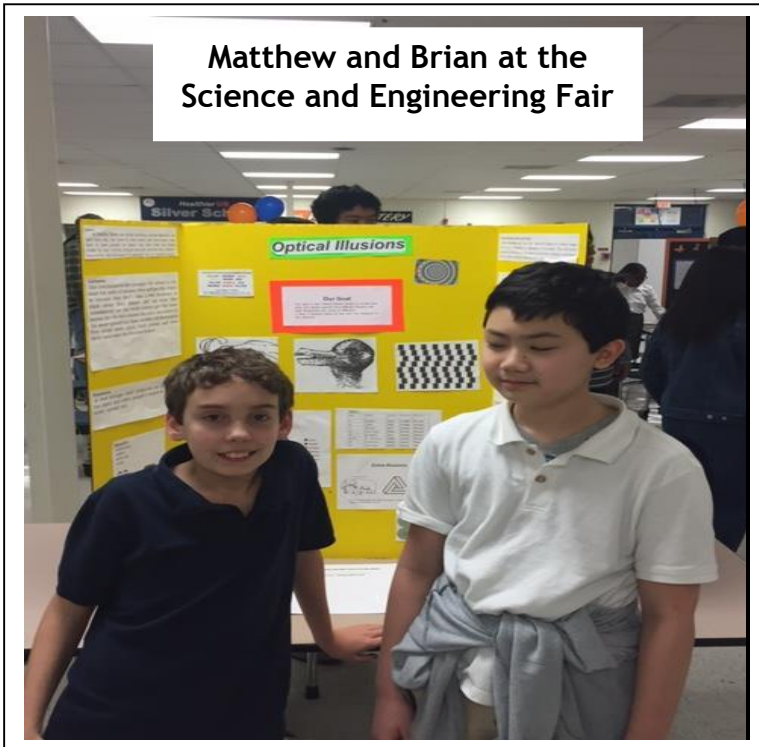
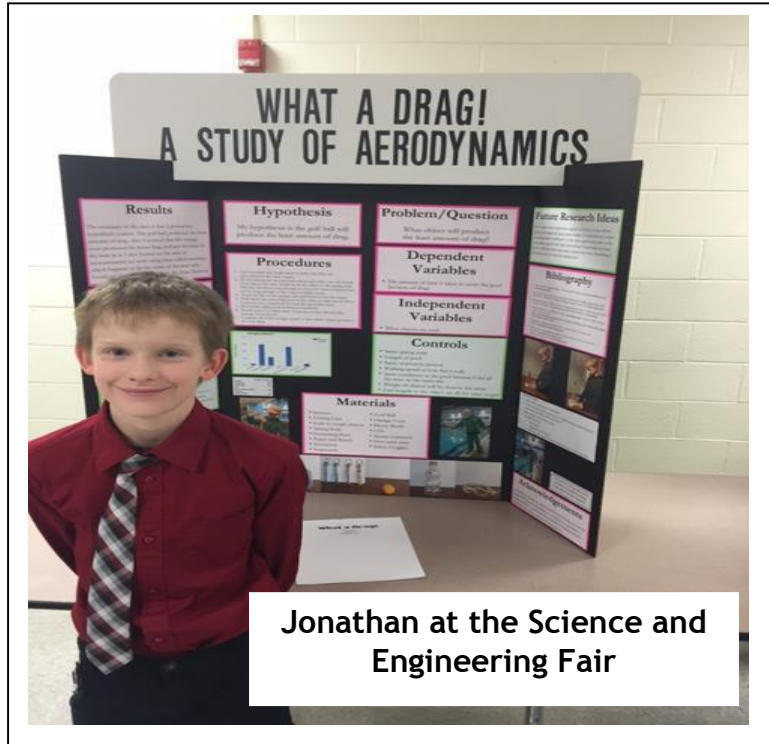
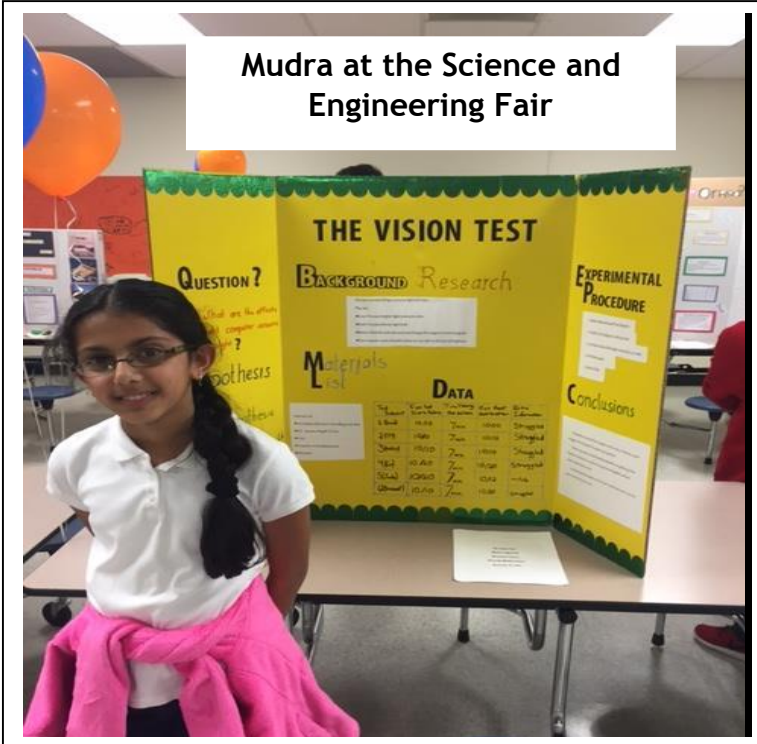


Katie at the Science and Engineering Fair



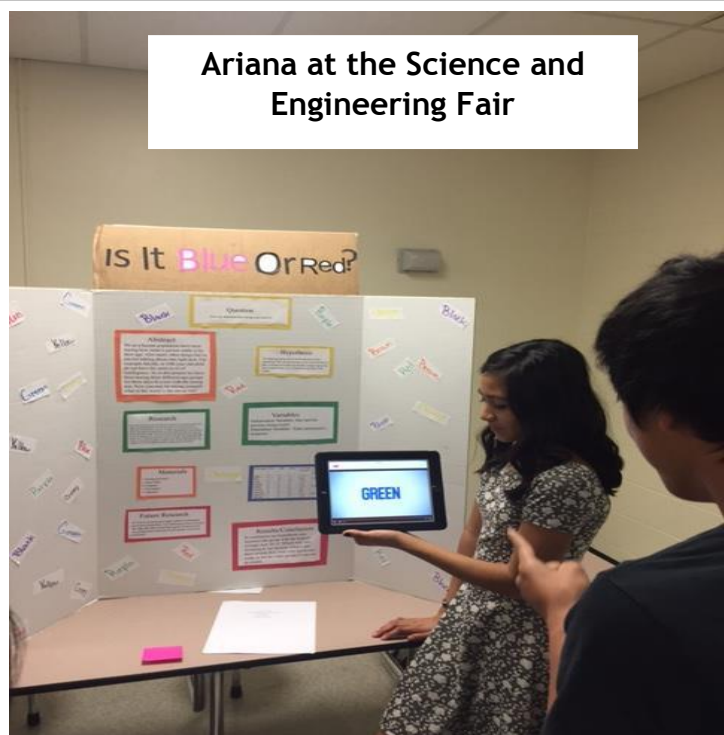


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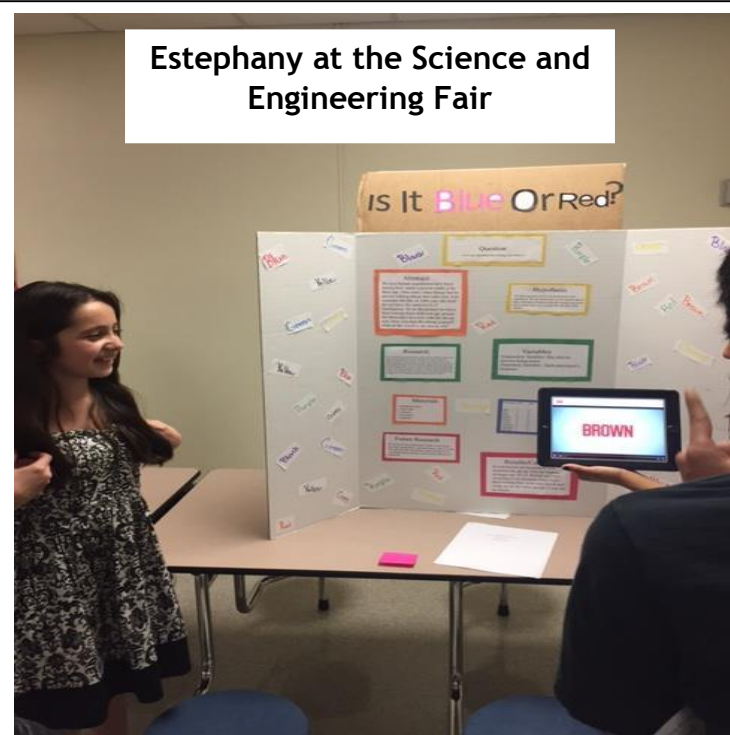


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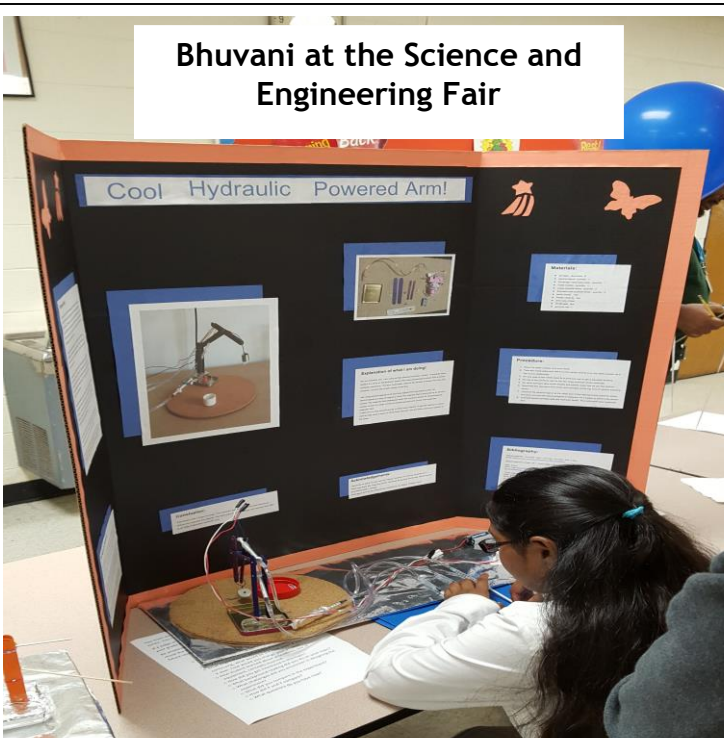
**Ariana at the Science and Engineering Fair**



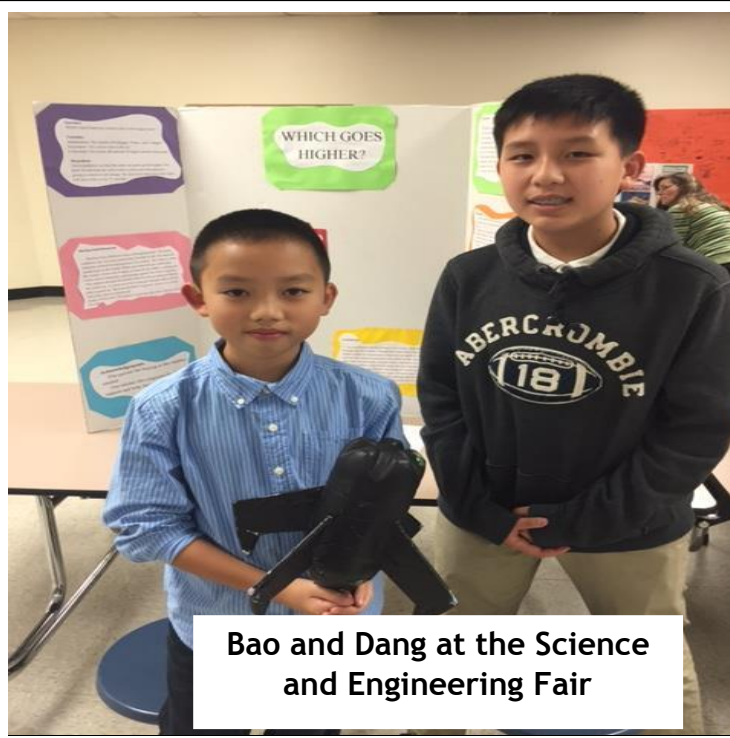
**Estephany at the Science and Engineering Fair**



**Bhuvani at the Science and Engineering Fair**

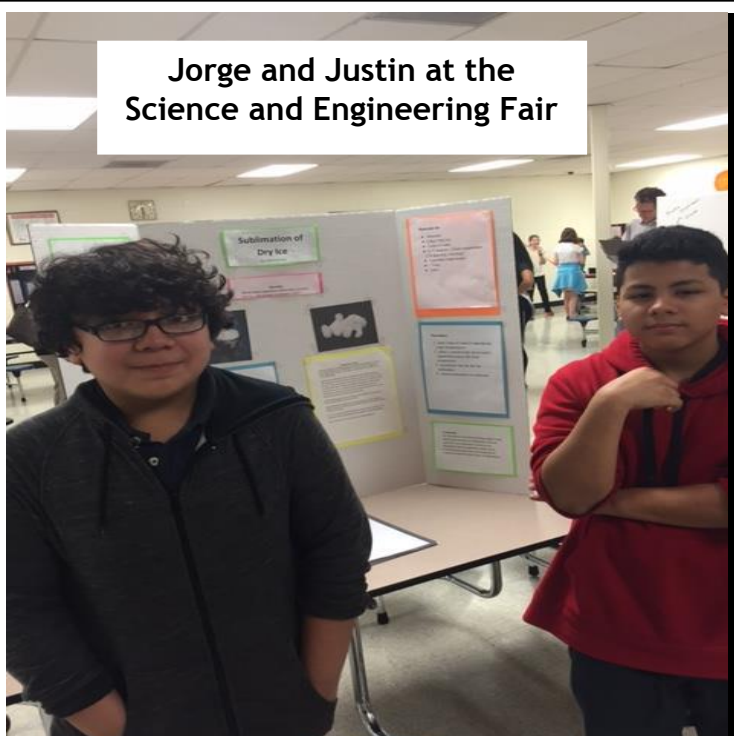


**Bao and Dang at the Science and Engineering Fair**



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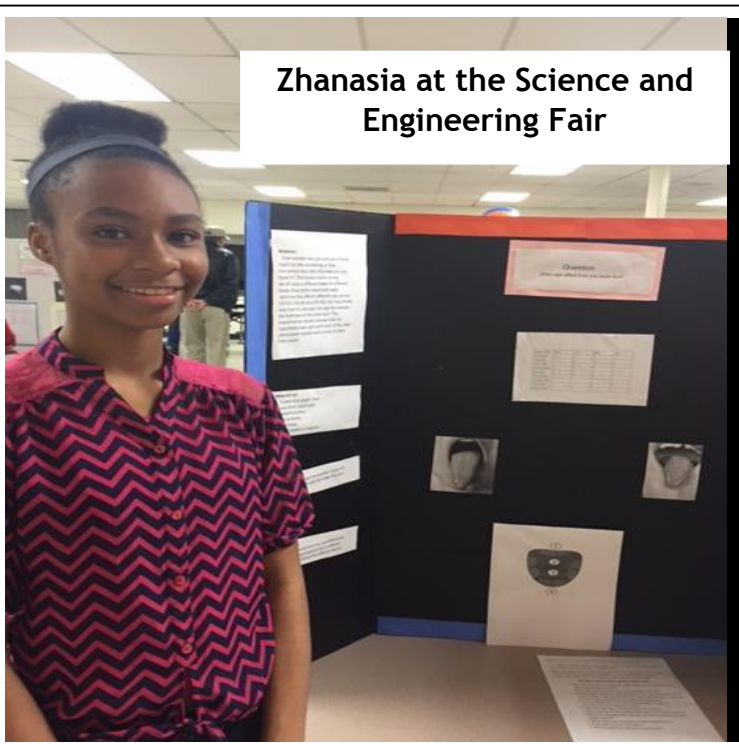
Jorge and Justin at the Science and Engineering Fair



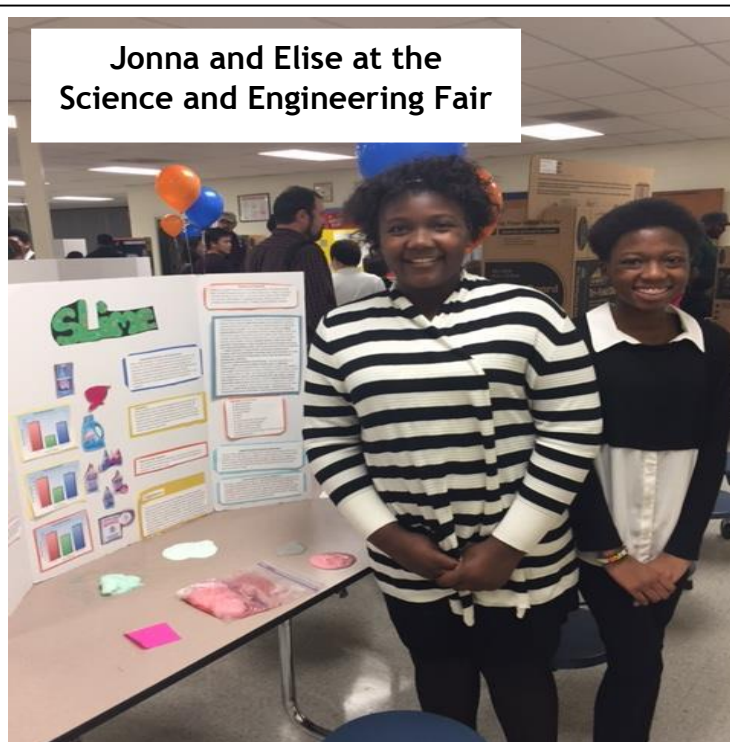
Giselle at the Science and Engineering Fair



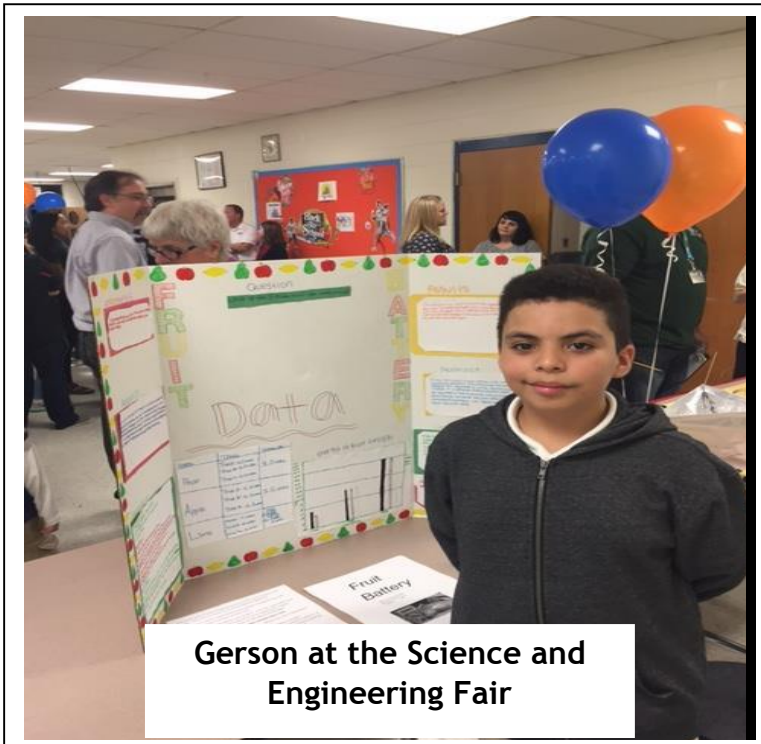
Zhanasia at the Science and Engineering Fair



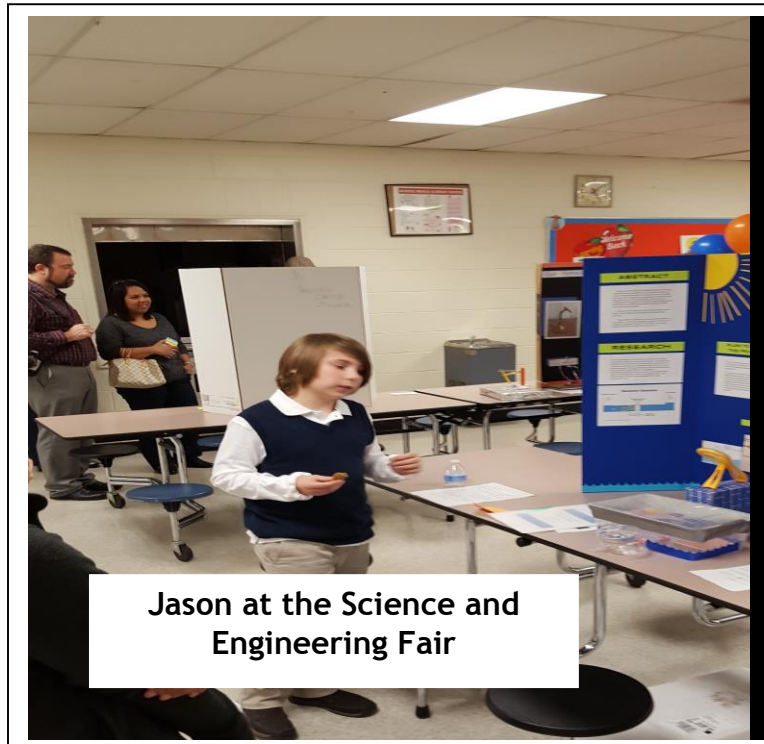
Jonna and Elise at the Science and Engineering Fair



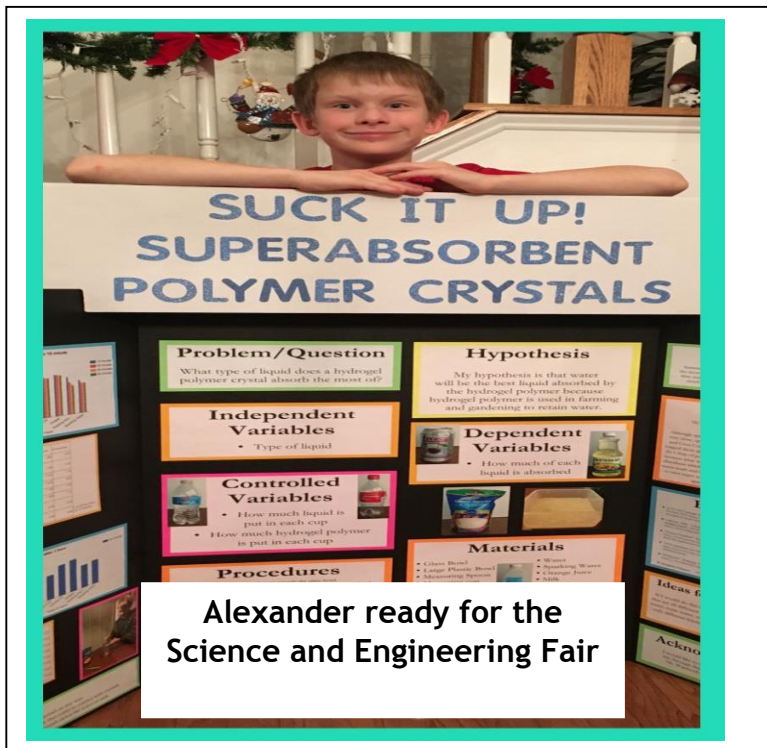
# Photo Gallery



**Gerson at the Science and Engineering Fair**



**Jason at the Science and Engineering Fair**



**Alexander ready for the Science and Engineering Fair**



**Kennedy Middle School students advancing to the Regional Fair at UNCC**

