Report to Junior Academy Council, August 8, 2023

2023 Science Days & ProjectBoard

The ProjectBoard software platform has been adapted to specifically accommodate the Believe in Ohio Program, the OAS Annual Meeting and OAS Science Days, including the Buckeye Science & Engineering Fair. It is currently utilized by the International Science & Engineering Fair as well.

ProjectBoard has features that allow student project development from start to finish, access by teachers, advisors and mentors, registration for events/competitions, on-line judging and archiving of all materials.

The cost of ProjectBoard for all of these functions and to cover all students who participate in 2023 will be underwritten by OAS in the amount of $300,000; substantially funded through an education grant awarded to OAS in 2022. There will be no ProjectBoard related student fee for 2023 Science Days Season.

Multiple seminars are being held July through September to demonstrate how ProjectBoard works for project development, event registration and virtual judging. This information will become available as videos soon.

Use of ProjectBoard for Student Project Development

Students are highly encouraged to use ProjectBoard for their project development beginning in September/October. This program will provide many advantages to students through every step of the process. It will be up to each school whether or not to make the use of Project Board for project development mandatory or optional for their students.

Local & County Science Fairs

The use of ProjectBoard at Local, County and other Independent Fairs for the purpose of event registration is permitted, at no cost to the event host. ProjectBoard can also be used to “promote” Superior rated projects to the respective District Science Day. In addition, as there is no requirement again in 2023 for a project to earn a Superior at a Local Fair prior to registering for District Science Day, students may choose to register for District Science Day on their own without a Superior. This would also apply to students without access to a Local Fair (homeschooled, or at a school that does not participate).

Project Presentation Options – Local & County Fairs

Regardless of whether or not ProjectBoard is used for project development, once a project is completed, each Local or County Fair must decide how their students will present their project display. Options include traditional tri-fold poster board, printed QuadBoard (aka QuadChart), laptop slides, or projector slides, or a combination of those options.
**District Science Days**

District Science Days in 2023 are to be in-person events held in facilities provided by the respective Host Institution of that District. District Science Days must be held prior to March 27, 2023. Any District unable to host an in-person event in 2023 will direct students in that District to register with District 18 for a virtually judged District Science Day administered by the OAS office staff.

District Science Days are required to use ProjectBoard for registration of projects. District administrators will have access to the projects from their respective District on ProjectBoard. As there is no requirement again in 2023 for a project to earn a Superior at a Local Fair prior to registering for District Science Day, any student with a completed and approved project may choose to register for District Science Day. This also applies to students without access to a Local Fair (homeschooled, or at a school that does not participate). Registration for District Science Days closes for ALL Districts on Monday, February 27, 2023. All schools should be notified in September of this deadline. Schools which traditionally hold their Local Fair after that date should schedule their Fair earlier, or advise students to register for District without having participated in the Local Fair first.

District Science Day registration fees charged to participating students are at the discretion of each District Council. As in the past, each District Council will pay a per student fee of $15.00 to the Ohio Academy of Science to assist with operating costs for State Science Day.

Registration requirements include a QuadBoard (aka QuadChart), Abstract, and a Final Report. A 15 minute (or less) video is optional (required for District 18).

Each District Council may decide how their students will present their project display. Options include traditional tri-fold poster board, printed QuadBoard (aka QuadChart), laptop slides, or projector slides, or a combination of those options.

Students receiving a Superior rating for their project at District Science Day will be “promoted” to State Science Day. Students competing in State Science Day may make changes/additions to ProjectBoard materials, including the upload of a presentation video, if not already completed, between March 27 and April 2, 2023. No District project quotas anticipated at this time.
**State Science Day**

The 2023 State Science Day will be held as an online virtually judged competition administered through the OAS office. The registration fee will be $60.00 per student. ProjectBoard will be used for judging with the same (or updated) Abstract, Final Report, QuadBoard and presentation video.

State Science Day registration will open on Monday, March 27th and close on Sunday, April 2nd. Virtual judging will begin on Monday, April 3rd and close on Wednesday, April 12th. Re-judging will occur between April 12th and April 16th. Superior rated projects will be announced Monday, April 17th.

On Saturday, May 13, 2023, there will be a State Science Day Celebration held in-person at The Ohio State University. This event will include student poster presentations (QuadBoard or Tri-Fold Poster) with selected sponsored award judging, public viewing of posters, featured speakers, campus tours including department laboratories, lunch, and an Awards Ceremony with announcement of selected awards.

All State Science Day students with Superior rated projects will be invited to present at the State Science Day Celebration. In addition, any project not receiving a Superior rating at State Science Day may be recommended (nominated) to participate in the State Science Day Celebration by a teacher or advisor. All nominated projects will be reviewed by State Science Day Committee and projects of merit will be selected to attend.

**Buckeye Science & Engineering Fair**

The Buckeye Science and Engineering Fair (BSEF) provides a venue for Ohio students to qualify for the International Science and Engineering Fair. Entrants are limited to grades 9-12. Any student (individual or team) who completes an approved project may register for the BSEF prior to the posted registration deadline of Monday, February 27, 2023. Each project should include exceptional data collection (quantity and quality) and statistical analysis of the results. The registration fee will be $50.00 per student.

In First Round judging, projects will be virtually judged on ProjectBoard, with the top 10-12 scoring projects selected to compete in Round 2 judging. A different rubric (max. 100 points) is used for BSEF judging. The format for Round 2 judging has a panel of 9 judges meeting with the students in real time, one student at a time via Zoom. Each student gives a two minute oral presentation, then judges ask questions with the student answering for a period of eight minutes. Six ISEF Finalists will be selected.

Information about the BSEF and registration instructions for students will be provided to the districts by the Academy's office. District Councils should distribute this information to all of its schools and teachers no later than January.