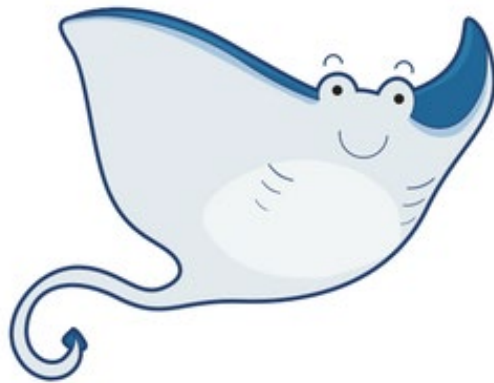


Matunuck
Elementary School
STEAM Fair
2024



Family Information Packet

Important Dates

- **Monday, January 8th, 2024: Last day to register**

<https://forms.gle/eTLwnRFPpiokR63y7>

There is no cost to participate, but we do need to know how many students/projects to anticipate for planning purposes.

- **Tuesday, January 16th: Project drop-off**

There are three options for getting your student's project to school for the STEAM Fair. Your student's project consists of what they will use for presenting to their peers and then to family/friends. This includes anything that makes up their project, such as display board, demonstrations, photos, props, etc.. The students will setup their project in their designated STEAM Fair presentation location. The options are:

1. Have your student bring the project materials into school on the bus or at drop off
2. Meet at the school at 3pm to help your student drop off their project material.
3. Meet at the school at 6pm to help your student drop off their project material.
4. If you need to make alternate arrangements for drop off, please text Elisabeth Hoy at 401-741-1922

- **Wednesday, January 17th: In School Presentations**

Every STEAM Fair participant will have an opportunity to present their project, and all students at Matunuck will have the chance to look at the other students' entries.

- **Wednesday, January 17th: Family/Friend Viewing, 6-7pm**

We will have family/friend viewing, followed by recognition for participants. When participants arrive, they are to go straight to their STEAM Fair presentation area, it is suggested for them to arrive 10-15 minutes early to get ready. The format will be such that the participants stand by their project and the family/friends will walk through the STEAM Fair and ask participants questions about their STEAM Fair projects. Note that **this is not a drop off event**, it is expected that an adult will be at the STEAM Fair with each participant.

General Information

Welcome to the 2024 Matunuck STEAM Fair!

The Matunuck Elementary STEAM Fair is a *voluntary* student event that is a partnership between the school and the PTO. 2024 will be the 4th year that we have hosted a STEAM Fair, and we are so excited to see how it has grown each year, how it serves as an opportunity for students to learn and explore deeply about a topic they are passionate about, and to see the pride on students' faces when they present their newfound knowledge and skills to their peers and to their extended Matunuck School community. We hope all students will choose to participate. If any student would like to participate, but is having difficulty in choosing a topic, or developing their project, please reach out to your student's teacher who can get you in contact with Mrs. Shaw our Matunuck School Math Coach and the STEAM Fair in-school coordinator.

A Matunuck STEAM Fair Project can be

- a science experiment or demonstration
- an invention or functional item designed to solve a problem (engineering design)
- a model or collection related to the theme
- an artistic representation or exploration (painting, sculpture, poem, story, music, etc)

Ideas to Get Started With

- Does the sun heat saltwater and freshwater at the same rate?
- What is the best shock absorber for dropping an egg?
- What is the best insulator to keep ice from melting?
- What makes a shadow?
- What are the parts of a plant and their uses?
- What are the habitats of a trout, cardinal and boa constrictor?
- What dissolves in water and what does not?
- What does a tree look like in all four seasons?
- Which type of microwave popcorn pops the best?
- Can plants grow normally when upside down?
- Which Food will mold the fastest?
- Is it a fruit or veggie?
- Does the brand of kitty litter affect clumping?
- Which cereal brand stays crunchy in milk the longest?

Visit
[MatunuckPTO.org](https://www.matunuckpto.org)
for additional ideas,
resources, and
information.

Project Teams

Work on your project independently, work with a partner, work with a sibling, or work with a team- it's your choice.

Partner or team members can come from different classes or grades. Maximum team size is four and each participant can present one project.

Note to Parents

We are excited to see your child enter our school's STEAM Fair! The STEAM Fair is an opportunity for your child to problem-solve and learn by doing. We hope you will encourage and guide them through the project process. But please encourage your child to do as much of the work as appropriate for their age and development. The final project should reflect your child's individual work and effort. Keep in mind that the main goal of the STEAM Fair is to encourage creativity and curiosity in your child!

Project ideas should come from the students and students should drive their projects. It is important that students conduct their own research, experiments, and discovery—even if the experiment or design doesn't work! We want to learn about all the mistakes!

Important Display Information

Each project will be given a table assignment when students come to set up their project display boards. All exhibit materials must fit on the table in the space right in front of the display board. Table space available for projects is approximately half of a 6 foot x 3 foot folding table. There will be no access to electricity or additional space available to any student. If your project required access to electricity or the materials used are bigger than the space provided, you should consider displaying pictures, videos or a slideshow of your experiment or design. If that is not possible, please reach out to the PTO STEAM Fair Coordinator Elisabeth Hoy (exgilbert@gmail.com). If using electronics (laptops, tablets, etc,) as part of your display, make sure the device is fully charged and bring the device with you when it's time to present your project. In other words, *don't leave valuable items unattended*.

STEAM Fair Family/Friend Night

Each student participant will present his or her project to family and friends in attendance. Students should be ready to give a brief overview of their project to attendees (5 minute presentation) and to answer questions from attendees. The important thing in all of this is to remember that the STEAM Fair is not a competition. The STEAM Fair is an opportunity for students to explore topics within the STEAM fields. Through the STEAM Fair, we hope to encourage a love of exploration, discovery, and practice their project design skills along the way. Participation is completely optional and voluntary. The Family/Friend presentation portion of the STEAM Fair is an opportunity for the student to practice their public speaking skills- especially with an adult who is not their teacher or parent.

Questions?

Contact the PTO STEAM Fair Coordinator, Elisabeth Hoy (exgilbert@gmail.com) with any questions.