

## Helpful Hints for BEST Medicine Engineering Fair participants

1. **Preparation:** Students should practice their speeches and review their materials to refresh their memory prior to the fair.
2. **Dress code at the event:** Students should dress appropriately. Boys should wear a collared shirt and slacks. You may choose to wear a tie or a jacket. Girls should dress in slacks, dress, or skirt. Short skirts or high heels are not a good idea as students will be given the opportunity to participate in mini design competitions and comfortable, professional clothing is ideal.
3. **What to bring?** Students need to bring the following items on the day: display board, lab notebook, lab report (if completed), and prototype. If you require electricity, notify the BEST Medicine Engineering Fair chair or co-chair and it will be provided for you. Bring your own extension cord, in case you need one.
4. During the judging, you will be waiting for judges to visit your display. Therefore, bring a book, homework, or other quiet activity. Students may bring a cell phone, but may only use it to contact parents when the fair is over. Judges will not approach students if they are on their cell phone.
5. Definitely do not sit on your chair when a judge approaches you! You should stand up and introduce yourself. Likewise your judge should introduce himself/herself to you.
6. Smile and face the judges when you speak to them. They are genuinely interested in your work!
7. Judges look for certain qualities like curiosity, enthusiasm for your project, and willingness to try new things. If your method did not work the first time you tried something, that is OK – in fact, judges will often be impressed that you had to struggle with your methods or designs before completing your project.
8. Judges may want to look at your project notebook. Many times there are only a few pages of work, but as you compete at higher and higher levels, it will be important to have a thoroughly documented notebook.
9. The best students learn to gauge who they are speaking to – some people who stop by your poster may only want to know the highlights. In this case, try to give a short summary lasting only about 2 minutes. For a regular judge, you will need to describe your hypotheses (for a science project) or your design (for an engineering project) in more detail.
10. You should thank each judge, and shake hands at the end of the interview. Just as with a job interview—these little courtesies really do matter!
11. Boxed lunches are provided at the awards ceremony for parents and students. Students will also be treated to light refreshments before the judging begins.
12. **Parents:** There is a cafeteria for parents to wait for their students. Parents do not need to remain at the STEM school while judging is going on. Judging is over sometime between noon and 12:30pm, and then students are released. Parents can help to collect their project and head over with their student to the awards venue, which is within walking distance of the STEM school. The awards ceremony should be over before 3pm.