



2008 -- THE 59th ANNUAL MASSACHUSETTS STATE SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

April 4, 2008

To all Teachers, Mentors and Chaperones of State Science & Engineering Fair Exhibitors:

Congratulations on your student(s) entering the 59th annual Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair! We are planning a wonderful program, and I am sure they will enjoy the spirit of competition, camaraderie and fun that awaits them.

The Fair will be held on May 1, 2 and 3 at MIT's Johnson Athletics Center, on Vassar Street in Cambridge. (Access the MIT website -- <http://whereis.mit.edu/map-jpg>.) This year, we will again be featuring the Science Fair Expo. Sponsoring companies and special friends will be exhibitors in the Johnson Center Foyer, and we hope that you and the students will enjoy their interesting demonstrations and presentations during your free time. Following is important information for all registrants and those who will be accompanying them. (Correspondence to students, via email & US Postal Service, will include special flyers announcing the Banquet, Safety Guidelines, MIT Map, COP Program and a Friday noon luncheon presentation for parents on financing a college education.)

REGISTRATION:

Begins on Thursday, May 1, from 4-7 pm, and continues Friday, May 2, starting at 7:30 am. Local area students are encouraged to register on Thursday evening. Projects may be unloaded at the front of the Johnson Athletic Center in the parking lot at the end of Amherst Street. **However, vehicles must be moved out of the lot immediately after unloading.** Parking is difficult. Therefore, students should explore the feasibility of using public transportation. For information about public transportation, contact the MBTA at (617) 222-3200. Parking information is included in the enclosed map.

Upon entering the Johnson Center, students should check in at the Registration Desk to receive their respective location assignments and official 2008 Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair Packet. Registration and project set-up must be completed by 9:30 am.

SAFETY INSPECTION:

The MSSEF/MIT Safety Review Committee will conduct project safety inspections on Friday morning. Students are asked to remain near their exhibits to answer any questions the Committee members may have. Be sure your students review their safety guideline sheet. If you/they have any questions, call Katie Blass, MIT Safety Office (617) 253-4736, or Howard Harrison, MIT Electrical Operations (617) 253-6361.

JUDGING:

Judging begins May 2nd at 11:30 am and student(s) must remain at their project location until 6 p.m. In order for team projects to be judged, **all team members must be present.** During judging, the exhibition area will be restricted to registered participants, MSSEF judges, officials, staff and pre-qualified individuals. Please ask all friends, family, teachers, guests, etc., to comply with this request.

SECURITY:

MIT will provide round-the-clock security in the exhibition hall. However, Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair, Inc., MIT, and/or any other fair sponsor cannot be held responsible for loss, theft or damage to exhibits or personal property. Therefore, valuable items should be secured to the exhibit, but not left overnight. **Never leave wallets, pocketbooks, laptops and other valuable personal items unattended.**

MEALS:

Students are responsible for their own meals except for the Science Fair Banquet on Friday. They may bring lunches and snacks, or they may use the cafeterias in the adjacent Stratton Student Center Building. On Friday, to coincide with the judging schedule, we recommend that they finish lunch before 11:30 am.