

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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Media Alert

Contact: Robert Herman
Public Information Officer
(559) 733-6606 – office
(559) 303-8568 – cell

Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Middle School Students to Participate in Second Annual Physics Day Event at Tulare County Fair

1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Thursday, September 13, 2007 • Tulare County Fairgrounds, Tulare

The Tulare County Office of Education is proud to announce its second annual **Physics Day at the Fair** on Thursday, September 13 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Approximately 200 sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students from six Tulare County middle schools will participate in physics-related activities at the Tulare County Fair.

The event is modeled after Paramount's Great America "Physics Day" and coordinated by Jonathan Janzen, science instructional consultant for the Tulare County Office of Education, and Mike Milanesi, science coordinator for Tulare City Elementary School District. Students have the opportunity to participate in three to four activity centers during the event. One of the most popular activities is the collection of physical data – such as acceleration, velocity and altitude – on four fairway rides using electronic measuring devices. To record the data, students don bright orange vests outfitted with electronic probes, which they activate at the beginning of each ride. Students will also have the opportunity to attend a demonstration center staffed by College of the Sequoias science instructors and students, and compete in events including an egg drop, the construction of a straw

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tower, and the launching of an aluminum foil barge. Back in the classroom, student experiences and the data collected can be integrated with school curriculum, such as graphing and science/math questions related to real-life problems involving transportation, manufacturing and more.

“We were delighted with the response to our first Physics Day at the Fair last year,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “The event is a fun way for students to see physical concepts first-hand, and to understand the effect they have on so many aspects of our modern world,” says Mr. Vidak.

For more information please contact Robert Herman at (559) 733-6606.

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