

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

September 11, 2009

## **Media Alert**

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**Tulare County Office of Education Announces:**

## **Over 600 middle school students scheduled to participate in annual Physics Day event at Tulare County Fair**

**11:00 am – 2:45 pm, Thursday, September 17, 2009 • Tulare County Fairgrounds, Tulare**

The Tulare County Office of Education's fourth annual **Physics Day at the Fair** will be held Thursday, September 17 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. at the Tulare County Fair in Tulare. Over 600 sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students from 14 Tulare County middle schools are scheduled to participate in physics-related activities.

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, Mike Milanesi, science coordinator for Tulare City Elementary School District, and Mike Baker, an independent science instructional consultant. Following lunch (11:00 – 11:30 a.m.), students will receive instructions on the event's activities and then have the opportunity to move between three different stations:

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**Station 1: Physics Challenges** – This station will allow groups of two to three students to create projects such as “Build a Roller Coaster,” an airplane toss, or the egg drop to test a specific physics concept like acceleration, gravity, buoyancy and others.

**Station 2: Hands-On Mini-Labs** – Led by College of the Sequoias science instructor Larry Owens, this station allows students to examine interesting science topics.

**Station 3: Midway Rides** – Students will ride select carnival attractions to collect data using available Vernier probes or using their own homemade accelerometers.

“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 Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

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

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