

# NISD Ag Mechanics Projects

2024-25

Hand Book Guide

Ag Mechanics SAE projects can be one of the greatest experiences in FFA. It teaches students real life skills such as welding, electrical, design and fabrication, and public speaking skills. This handbook will explain what is required of each student who participates in the NISD SAE Ag Mechanics Show Team.

## Shows and Classes for each Show

The Shows that the NISD Ag Mechanics show team will be attending this year are Sonny Nance, San Angelo, San Antonio, and Denton County. If so desired parents and students may show at other projects privately sponsored at other shows through 4H. Each show is different from each other. They have different scholarship opportunities, prizes, and rules. For example, Fort Worth only allows one BBQ pit/ outdoor recreational item to be entered from each school. Fort Worth also has the Texas Made scholarship, which requires a student to show two consecutive years and then take a test and interview during their senior year. A student can only apply for this scholarship once. SA Rodeo offers scholarships by winning a division. They can happen multiple times. For additional information, contact your AST advisor or go to the website for that particular stock show.

### Sonny Nance

Date: January 11,2025

### Ft. Worth

Date: January 17th thru the 19th 2025

### San Angelo

Date: February 1st thru the 3rd 2025

### San Antonio

Date: February 23rd thru the 25th 2025

### Denton County Livestock Association

Date: March TBA

## AG Mechanics Monthly Meetings and Topics

Meetings shall be held and parents and students should attend them. It is important to attend to prevent communication Issues.

August 27 - Informational Meeting

TBD Ag Mech Paperwork Night Must Attend

TBD All paperwork must be received by Mr. Pulley

During Sonny Nance- Major Show Travel Itinerary

## Payment for Projects

Project material costs are the responsibility of the student. If the project construction is at school. A budget and a blueprint of the project must be completed and shared with AST Advisor before construction starts.

## Chapter Sponsored Projects

Periodically school sponsored projects may be built. It will be determined by the AST and Administration at that individual campus who will build those projects. For determining who is building those projects an application, interview and test will be utilized. The panel of the Administration and AST will determine which students will be placed on which district-funded projects. The maximum number of students that can participate on the project is determined by what shows the district attends. Generally speaking 4 students are allowed on a project at majors. Students that have not had an opportunity to build projects are given priority placement on sponsored projects unless degree of difficulty is determined otherwise.

## Application Process

Students will be required to make a cover letter stating their intent, resume, and list of references. These items will be required to be turned in to the AST, and presented to the Administrative Interview Panel. The application process will be worth 30% of an applicant's score.

## Interview

The interview will be conducted by the Administrative Interview Panel. All applicants will be asked the same preset questions. In addition, during the interview the panel will review the cover letter, resume, and references. The interview process will be worth 40% of an applicant's score.

## Test

The test will consist of questions related to teamwork and knowledge related to shop activities. The test will be worth 30% of an applicant's score. Materials for studying the test can be obtained by emailing the AST, at which time a link will be provided for materials for the student to study.

If an additional item is needed to determine the finalist a hands on test can be administered at the discretion of the site AST.

## Ag Mech Show Team Fee

Students will be required to purchase the prescribed school hat \$35 in order to participate in the show. This is to build a sense of community. Students that have already purchased or obtained the approved hat are not required to purchase an additional.

## Showing Requirements

Weekly grade checks can be done on students. Students failing may be asked not to work afterschool so as to bring up their academic grade.

Students that have had disciplinary action may or may not be allowed to show. The guidelines set forth by the district will be used to determine eligibility to show.

Building a project is not complete without taking pride and presenting a project whether or not it is for majors or local shows. All projects shall have the following components, a completed painted project, a portfolio, and a rehearsed presentation.

## Build Location

NISD staff recommend that all projects be constructed at the school shop facilities under the supervision of an AST. The exception is for Junior FFA members.

Part of building a project is learning about timelines. A completion timeline will be established by the AST. Depending on the project it may be required for students to stay after school to complete projects. A system of accountability will be developed at that student's school site and AST. If a student doesn't spend time after school and doesn't complete their project on time the student will accept responsibility for his or her actions.

## Alternative Grading

Students that decide to complete a PBL will have a modified grading structure that is developed by the AST of the school they attend

## Parts

The AST will help plan the parts list with students building the project. If a student deviates from the recommended parts list a AST may or may not be able to guarantee the soundness of the project.

## Painting Projects

All painting of projects will be completed in the paint booth at Northwest High School. Powder coating or painting can be done off school sites. The judges want to see the painting of the project be done by students under the supervision of an AST. All paint suggestions will be for purchasing Sherwin Williams paints. This is done so that paint formulations are the same. It ensures that all students will get the best outcome possible.

The paint schedule will be assigned by the AST. It will be imperative for students to hit their completion timelines as three schools share the same paint booth. All projects attending Sonny Nance must be fabricated and buffed out by December 1<sup>th</sup>.

## Portfolio

All students must have a portfolio for their project to be permitted to show. The portfolio will contain the following items: table of contents, summary of the build; pictures of completing the work, computer generated blue prints, research, and MSDS.

The portfolio shall be in a white three ring binder. On the front of the binder a picture of the student with the project shall be displayed. All materials in the binder shall be in clear sheet protectors and divided by sheet tabs. The summary shall explain why they built the project and their goals ending with what they learned. Further within the summary it shall contain all receipts for purchases made for completion of the project. Pictures shall demonstrate that the project was completed by the student. They should always demonstrate learning and wear their PPE. The blueprints can be drawn in a variety of

ways using the computer. Perhaps one of the easiest ways is through google sketch up. If plans were purchased for building a project, then they can be used. It is not the sole responsibility of the AST to blue print all projects. In the event an AST blueprints a project they may do more technically projects first or at their discretion. The research will consist of the following if it applies, DOT requirements, ASABE requirements, and or others that may apply. MSDS for everything used is also required to be in their portfolio. The documents can be obtained through copying from the shop's MSDS. Additional resources for making a portfolio can be found on the San Antonio Rodeo website under the JAM show rules and requirements.

## Transportation of Projects

Arrangements to transport projects by the AST will be made to the best of our abilities. The AST's however cannot guarantee that the NISD will be able to do so. It may be necessary for parents to transport the projects to the show. NISD will not accept any responsibility for damage that occurs to projects that are hauled by parents.

## Presentation

On the day of the Ag Mechanics show, students should clean their project so that it looks its best. Cleaning products are the responsibility of the students. A recommended list of products will be provided by the AST. All students will show their projects throughout the entire day until judging ceases. Showmanship awards and prizes can be won by students who do this. Oftentimes they can be as good as grand champion prizes. By showing their project continuously it also helps them gain confidence for when they are judged. Students should want to show what they have accomplished and be proud. Parents can be a part of the showing process. They can help by giving pointers out to their kids. If students fail to stay by their project during the course of judging or without the proper attire, they may not be allowed to participate at subsequent shows.

## Required Attire

Student attire is perhaps one of the most important components of showing their project. It is the first thing the judges notice and attire sets the tone for the professionalism that will occur during the presentation of the project. Having NISD attire not only helps during presentation of projects but also develops a sense of community. Students should be proud to be attending NISD schools and we are proud to have our students representing the district.

All students will be required to wear starched blue jeans and NISD Show Shirts. Students will provide the shirt to have embroidered. Further, a ball cap with the individual chapter logo will be utilized. This should be around \$50-\$60. Additionally, only modest head coverings are permitted, they should not make the general public feel that students are unapproachable. Boots should be polished or shoes should be clean. Facial hair should be neat.

## Building Start Date

It is highly recommended that students start their projects by September 9th. It is the discretion of the site AST to the cut off date to projects starting. AST's will do their best to be available to work in the shops after school and other such times. Students, parents, and AST's will coordinate to develop a schedule for after school hours. Holidays and weekends are not guarantees of work hours. AST's may

decide to work with students on occasions of those circumstances if the students have worked consistently after school. A log sheet will be used to track time spent after school. It will be the responsibility of the student to sign in and out each day.

Individual build sites may have additional information concerning a log of student hours.

Additionally, AST's reserves the right to refuse a project being built at a NISD facility if they feel that it is beyond the student's ability, it is too large due to time constraints, or if the project count is met.

## Hotels and Activities

Parents are required to attend the shows. Transportation to and from shows is to be provided by parents. If need be, release forms can be filled out allowing other parents to transport their child. Hotels are to be purchased by parents. Parents are responsible for their children on overnight trips and daily activities. AST's are there to merely aid students and parents through the show process. Students are required to adhere to the itinerary set forth by the AST. Activities will be done in group format. If a student fails to participate in the itinerary, the AST may determine that the student will not be able to participate in future shows. Students are not allowed to transport themselves. Further, students not abiding by district policies and guidelines may not be able to participate in future shows.

## Winnings

Allocation of prizes won during shows:

- Student Self Sponsored Projects
  - All prizes won will go to the student(s) that have sponsored their own projects.
  - In the case of group projects agreements will be made between AST and parents as to how the winnings shall be distributed.
- Campus/District Sponsored Projects
  - All prizes won will go to the students that exhibited the projects.
    - Prizes will be collected by the teacher at the show and transported back to the school. At the School the following formula will be used to determine the order that they can pick individual items from the pool of prizes from each individual show; The number of hours multiplied by the number of shows will determine the picking order.
    - Add ons from DCLA will go directly to the students
- San Antonio Market Place Show
  - All winnings shall go to the school sponsoring the project.
- *(disclaimer: buckles and scholarships won will go to the student(s) that exhibit the projects either self sponsored or campus/district sponsored)*

## Contracts

All students are required to sign NISD Northwest ISD/Chapter Ag. Mechanics Project Contract or the Chapter Funded Project Contract. In the event that contracts are not signed, work on the project can not start.

