



Dear Parents,

We hope your children are excited about being inventors! At the heart of the Invention Convention program is collaboration. Your inventors might need your help in various stages of the invention process. Although the work should come from your inventor, there are a lot of ways parents can assist in our invention program!

### **Problem identification assistance**

Inventions should solve problems from the lives of our inventors or their communities. Inventors should be passionate about the problem they hope to solve.

We encourage you to communicate with your children throughout the invention process. Your children may begin to ask about the problems you face or problems you see around the world in the news. Please encourage your inventors to speak with family members and friends and record their learning in their Invention Log. This is a great way to start coming up with ideas for solutions (inventions).

Thinking of an idea for an invention can be the hardest part of the Invention Convention program. It requires collaboration, observation, and reflection. Thank you for helping your young inventors by being a sounding board for invention ideas.

### **Finding materials**

Soon, your child will begin to build a prototype. Students should begin to look around their house now for possible building materials. They can place items (glue, tape, paper towel rolls, boxes, paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, pvc pipes, Velcro, etc) in an invention box to gather it in one place. Ideally, your inventors use recycled materials. If you have to purchase new items, please do not spend more than \$50. Repurposing and recycling is celebrated over purchasing new materials!

More than 100,000 K-12 inventors from across the United States and the world compete each year at local events to earn an invitation to showcase their inventions at the Invention Convention U.S. Nationals event on the floor of Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, in Michigan, alongside some of the most iconic inventions in American history. Your young inventor is a part of the invention education movement and we cannot wait to see everyone's hard work.