Fair Lawn

Public Schools

Fair Lawn, NJ

Science 4

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Third Grade Science is an integrated science program developed by a committee of Fair Lawn Elementary School general education and special education teachers. It is aligned to the NJSLS-S which are correlated to the NJSLS-ELA and NJSLS-M. There is a focus on learning science through investigation and through reading non-fiction texts and inquiry-based science exploration.

Science Department

Fair Lawn School District

Committee Credits

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Science Fourth Grade

I. Course Synopsis

Our elementary science program reflects and integrated, thematic approach to the study of the field of science which supports the philosophy of the NJSLS-S. Students will develop an understanding of the core principals of physical, earth, space, and life science while engaging in engineering and technology through exposure to rich, non-fiction text.

II. Philosophy & Rationale

This course has been aligned to and developed with the NJSLS-S as its focus.

All NJSLS-S aligned courses in the Fair Lawn Schools demonstrate a commitment preparing students to become college and career ready as well as the other guiding assumptions of the Frameworks for Science Education (NRC, 2011) and the NJSLS-S including

- Students are born investigators;
- Science instruction should focus on core ideas and practices;
- An understanding of science develops over time;
- Science and engineering require both knowledge and practice;
- Science education must connect to students' interests and experiences; and
- Promoting equity for all students must be a focus of science education.

Additionally, all NJSLS-S aligned courses in the Fair Law Schools integrate the three dimensions discussed in the Frameworks for Science Education and the NJSLS-S, including

- Science & Engineering Practices which describe behaviors that scientists engage in as they investigate and build models and theories about the natural world and the key set of engineering practices that engineers use as they design and build models and systems; (NGSS PDF)
- Cross Cutting Concepts which link all domains of science and provide an organizational schema for interrelating knowledge from various science fields into a coherent and scientifically-based view of the world; (NGSS PDF) and

- Disciplinary Core Ideas which focus and unite K-12 science, have a broad importance across multiple sciences or engineering disciplines or are a key organizing concept within a single discipline; provide a key tool for understanding or investigating more complex ideas and solving problems; relate to the interests and life experiences of students; are connected to societal or personal concerns that require scientific or technological knowledge; and are teachable and learnable over multiple grades at increasing depth and sophistication. (NGSS PDF)

Since coherence is a main dimension of the NJSLS-S, consider reviewing the "story line" for the middle school physical science, life science, earth and space science, and engineering, technology and applications of science, as well as the high school physical science, life science, earth and space science, and engineering, technology and application of science for a full picture of the NJSLS-S philosophy. For a full picture of how these programs are implemented in the Fair Lawn Schools, visit the district curriculum website.

As described in the NJSLS-S, technical writing and reading non-fiction is also a focus of our elementary science curricula as required by the NJSLS-ELA and Math. Students are expected to think critically about data they collect or read about and then express their thoughts through text-based narratives, journal entries, short-constructed response, argument-based writing, and/or in-class discussion.

Differentiated instruction for students at different levels of achievement and specific learning needs (e.g. special education, English Language Learners (ELL), at-risk, and Gifted & Talented) is embedded in targeted scaffolding based on knowledge of each student's interests, needs, and assessment data, including, but not limited to, in class formative and summative assessments.

When deemed appropriate, department teachers will engage students in purposeful paired discussions to share information more effectively, such as the "turn and talk" (Harvey & Daniels, 2009). "Text annotation" could be used, for example to optimize reading comprehension (Daniels & Steineke, 2010).

III. Scope & Sequence

The third Grade Science program consists of three thematic units reflective of the NJSLS-S. Each unit develops new content with consistent emphasis on the science and engineering processes, disciplinary core ideas, and cross cutting concepts reflective of the Next Generation Science Standards and the Frameworks for Science Education.

*Each third Grade rotation is approximately 5 weeks long. The following scope and sequence aligns with the **Knowing Science** program. Each row listed below should last approximately one 30-45 minute lesson/session. Each rotation is comprised of 13-15 lessons/sessions which are considered essential to students' development as learners. Following these 13-15 lessons/sessions, optional "enrichment" lessons are listed which may be used at the teacher's discretion. Buffer weeks may be used for enrichment or to catch up on essential sessions.*

See the district Social Studies/Science calendar for the rotation schedule.

Rotation 1	**Unit 2: Structure & Function**	**Approx. 15 Essential Sessions Including Live Crayfish Pilot Teacher Lessons***
Rotation 2	**Earth's Surface Processes**	**Approx. 15 Essential Sessions**
Rotation 3	**Unit 1: Energy** **Unit 4: Waves**	**Approx. 15 Essential Sessions**

*Teachers should refer to the Science Pacing Chart on K5 Google Teacher Share for specific lessons/sessions which correlate with this curriculum. The spiral-bound teacher's guide includes detailed instructions for each inquiry-based lesson.

Rotation 1: Structure & Function

Enduring Understanding:

1. Plants and animals survive due to the structure and function of their bodies which enable them to grow and reproduce.
2. Animals receive information and respond in various ways.

Essential Questions:

1. How does the structure of a plant or animal affect their ability to survive?
2. How do animals respond to their environment?

Learning Objectives:

4-LS1-1. Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction. [Clarification Statement: Examples of structures could include thorns, stems, roots, colored petals, heart, stomach, lung, brain, and skin.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to macroscopic structures within plant and animal systems.]

4-LS1-2. Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information in different ways. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on systems of information transfer.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the mechanisms by which the brain stores and recalls information or the mechanisms of how sensory receptors function.]

3-5-ETS1-1. Define a simple design problem reflecting a need or a want that includes specified criteria for success and constraints on materials, time, or cost.

3-5-ETS1-2. Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.

3-5-ETS1-3. Plan and carry out fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered to identify aspects of a model or prototype that can be improved.

Suggested Activities & Suggested Modifications for Special Education Students, ELL Students, Students at Risk, and Gifted Students:

1. Use the pictorial glossary as a tool for your word wall, and pre-teach vocabulary to ELL or special education students.
2. Enrichment activities are described in the pacing guide which may be assigned to gifted students as homework assignments or during pull-out sessions.

Cross-Content Connections:

NJSLS- Math: Students will make observations, measure, collect data, and interpret data related to the Seasons, sun, moon, and stars.
NJSLS-Literacy: Students will ask and answer questions about key details from texts.

The pacing chart lists NJSLS-M and NJSLS-ELA standards which are addressed in this unit.

8.1: Use technology to collect and analyze data and to communicate findings with local peers and peers from other classes.

9.2: Explore careers directly related to this unit.

Rotation 2: Earth's Surface Processes

Enduring Understanding:

1. Landscapes change overtime.
2. Weathering can change the earth.
3. Data can be used to describe patterns on Earth.
4. Energy can be derived from natural resources which affects the environment.
5. Humans can provide solutions to impacts on the natural world.

Essential Questions:

1. How do landscapes change overtime?
2. How does weathering change the earth?
3. How is data used to describe patterns on Earth?
4. How is energy derived from natural resources in negative and positive ways?
5. How can humans have a positive impact on the world?

Learning Objectives:

4-ESS1-1. Identify evidence from patterns in rock formations and fossils in rock layers to support an explanation for changes in a landscape over time. [Clarification Statement: Examples of evidence from patterns could include rock layers with marine shell fossils above rock layers with plant fossils and no shells, indicating a change from land to water over time; and, a canyon with different rock layers in the walls and a river in the bottom, indicating that over time a river cut through the rock.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include specific knowledge of the mechanism of rock formation or memorization of specific rock formations and layers. Assessment is limited to relative time.]

4-ESS2-1. Make observations and/or measurements to provide evidence of the effects of weathering or the rate of erosion by water, ice, wind, or vegetation. [Clarification Statement: Examples of variables to test could include angle of slope in the downhill movement of water, amount of vegetation, speed of wind, relative rate of deposition, cycles of freezing and thawing of water, cycles of heating and cooling, and volume of water flow.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to a single form of weathering or erosion.]

4-ESS2-2. Analyze and interpret data from maps to describe patterns of Earth's features. [Clarification Statement: Maps can include topographic maps of Earth's land and ocean floor, as well as maps of the locations of mountains, continental boundaries, volcanoes, and earthquakes.]

4-ESS3-1. Obtain and combine information to describe that energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and their uses affect the environment. [Clarification Statement: Examples of renewable energy resources could include wind energy, water behind dams, and sunlight; non-renewable energy resources are fossil fuels and fissile materials. Examples of environmental effects could include loss of habitat due to dams, loss of habitat due to surface mining, and air pollution from burning of fossil fuels.]

4-ESS3-2. Generate and compare multiple solutions to reduce the impacts of natural Earth processes on humans.* [Clarification Statement: Examples of solutions could include designing an earthquake resistant building and improving monitoring of volcanic activity.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions.]

3-5-ETS1-1. Define a simple design problem reflecting a need or a want that includes specified criteria for success and constraints on materials, time, or cost.

3-5-ETS1-2. Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.

3-5-ETS1-3. Plan and carry out fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered to identify aspects of a model or prototype that can be improved.

Suggested Activities & Suggested Modifications for Special Education Students, ELL Students, Students at Risk, and Gifted Students:

1. Use the pictorial glossary as a tool for your word wall, and pre-teach vocabulary to ELL or special education students.
2. Enrichment activities are described in the pacing guide which may be assigned to gifted students as homework assignments or during pull-out sessions.

Cross-Content Connections:

NJSLS- Math: Students will make observations, measure, collect data, and interpret data related to the animals, their offspring, and their adaptations.
NJSLS-Literacy: Students will interpret non-fiction anchor books related to the science content.

The pacing chart lists NJSLS-M and NJSLS-ELA standards which are addressed in this unit.

8.1: Use technology to collect and analyze data and to communicate findings with local peers and peers from other classes.

9.2: Explore careers directly related to this unit.

Rotation 3: Energy & Waves

Enduring Understanding:

1. An object's speed is related to it's energy.
2. Energy can be transferred by sound, heat, and current.
3. Energy changes when objects collide.
4. Energy can be converted.
5. Waves have various, predictable characteristics.
6. Light entering the eye allows objects to be seen.
7. Information is transferred using predicable patterns.

Essential Questions:

1. How is speed related to energy?
2. How is energy transferred?
3. How does energy change?
4. How can energy be converted?
5. How do waves travel?
6. How do eyes work?
7. How is information transferred by waves?

Learning Objectives:

4-PS3-1. Use evidence to construct an explanation relating the speed of an object to the energy of that object. [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include quantitative measures of changes in the speed of an object or on any precise or quantitative definition of energy.]

4-PS3-2. Make observations to provide evidence that energy can be transferred from place to place by sound, light, heat, and electric currents. [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include quantitative measurements of energy.]

4-PS3-3. Ask questions and predict outcomes about the changes in energy that occur when objects collide. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the change in the energy due to the change in speed, not on the forces, as objects interact.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include quantitative measurements of energy.]

4-PS3-4. Apply scientific ideas to design, test, and refine a device that converts energy from one form to another.* [Clarification Statement: Examples of devices could include electric circuits that convert electrical energy into motion energy of a vehicle, light, or sound; and, a passive solar heater that converts light into heat. Examples of constraints could include the materials, cost, or time to design the device.] [Assessment Boundary: Devices should be limited to those that convert motion energy to electric energy or use stored energy to cause motion or produce light or sound.]

4-PS4-1. Develop a model of waves to describe patterns in terms of amplitude and wavelength and that waves can cause objects to move. [Clarification Statement: Examples

of models could include diagrams, analogies, and physical models using wire to illustrate wavelength and amplitude of waves.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include interference effects, electromagnetic waves, non-periodic waves, or quantitative models of amplitude and wavelength.]

4-PS4-2. Develop a model to describe that light reflecting from objects and entering the eye allows objects to be seen. [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include knowledge of specific colors reflected and seen, the cellular mechanisms of vision, or how the retina works.]

4-PS4-3. Generate and compare multiple solutions that use patterns to transfer information.* [Clarification Statement: Examples of solutions could include drums sending coded information through sound waves, using a grid of 1's and 0's representing black and white to send information about a picture, and using Morse code to send text.]

3-5-ETS1-1. Define a simple design problem reflecting a need or a want that includes specified criteria for success and constraints on materials, time, or cost.

3-5-ETS1-2. Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.

3-5-ETS1-3. Plan and carry out fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered to identify aspects of a model or prototype that can be improved.

Suggested Activities & Suggested Modifications for Special Education Students, ELL Students, Students at Risk, and Gifted Students:

1. Use the pictorial glossary as a tool for your word wall, and pre-teach vocabulary to ELL or special education students.
2. Enrichment activities are described in the pacing guide which may be assigned to gifted students as homework assignments or during pull-out sessions.

Cross-Content Connections:

NJSLS- Math: Students will measure and make measurements comparing feet and standard units of measure.
NJSLS-Literacy: Students will engage in collaborative conversations with diverse partners.

The pacing chart lists NJSLS-M and NJSLS-ELA standards which are addressed in this unit.

8.1: Use technology to collect and analyze data and to communicate findings with local peers and peers from other classes.

9.2: Explore careers directly related to this unit.

V. Course Materials

Knowing Science is a curriculum resource which provides each classroom with a variety of mentor books, a teacher's guide, and inquiry supplies, which should be used along with this curriculum. A pacing guide is provided to teachers on the Google Share Drive.

Each classroom has been provided sets of non-fiction leveled readers and shared reading books to provide students and teachers with content knowledge. For list of leveled readers and shared reading books, contact the Science Supervisor.

VI. Assessments

Assessment of student learning in science at the elementary level should be formative in nature. Rubrics are provided in the Knowing Science program. The focus of assessment should be of students mastery of the Science and Engineering Processes of the NJSLS-S. The teacher should keep in mind the expected progression of their understandings.

See the pages titled, "Assessing Student Learning" within each unit of the Knowing Science spiral-bound teacher guide.

VII. Interdisciplinary Connections and Alignment to Technology standards (http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/standards/8/); Workplace readiness standards (http://www.state.nj.us/education/archive/frameworks/ccwr/appendixb.pdf); and 21st Century Content Standards (http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/standards/9/#91):

English/Social Studies

Based on English and Social Studies Department collaboration, the following topics have been identified across the American Literature and US History II curricula:

- Civil Rights
- Class Separation/Division
- Education System
- Poor/Wealthy
- Gates/Koch Brothers
- Ferguson

In turn, integrated curriculum has been created based on the essential question:

- How is our American culture shaped by socioeconomic class distinction?

English/Media Arts

Students choose books for independent reading projects in collaboration with the high school media specialist.

Technology-based process supports the construction of the MLA-research paper. This includes a media-driven lesson on acceptable academic sources and computer-based production of a formal research paper.

For alignment to Technology standards (http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/standards/8/); Workplace readiness standards (http://www.state.nj.us/education/archive/frameworks/ccwr/appendixb.pdf); and 21st Century Content Standards (http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/standards/9/#91),

Copy and paste standards below