

Science Curriculum Gr. 2 – 4 Revisions August 2006

During the summer a committee of teachers met to review and revise the science curriculum grades 2 - 5 as part of a five – year curriculum review. The committee identified several areas that needed to be addressed in order to align with standards and state assessments and update the curriculum. Following is an overview of the committee recommended changes:
Changes are also available on the Toms River Schools Website.

- Unit and chapter sequence of instruction were rearranged to address grade level sequence and NJCCS
- New assessments and open – ended materials were written for grade 2 which are more challenging and better prepare students for the more vigorous grade 3 science curriculum.
- Additional Open – ended response resources were developed to align more closely with the NJ ASK Science.
- Field trip selections with science curricular connections were identified and grade level recommendations were made.
- The committee recommends that teachers create opportunities for cross – curricular connections i.e. Writing within the content area; reading within the content area.

On behalf of our elementary staff I would like to thank our committee for all of their work this summer to make our science curriculum more effective!

REVISED SEQUENCE OF UNITS AND CHAPTERS

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Grade One: (No Change)

Unit A	Chapter 1	Living and non-living
Unit C	Chapter 1	Earth's Land
	Chapter 2	Earth's Air and Water
Unit E	Chapter 1	Matter
Unit A	Chapter 2	Plants
	Chapter 3	Animals

Grade 2**

Unit A	Chapter 3	Fossils
Unit C	Chapter 1	The Earth
	Chapter 2	Weather and Seasons
Unit C	Chapter 3	The Solar System
Unit B	Chapter 1	Matter
Unit B	Chapter 3	Forces and Magnets
Unit A	Chapter 2	Animals – elective

****New teacher developed assessments/open – ended response materials are to replace/supplement S.F. materials**

It is recommended that the concept of Sound be covered by the Music Teacher.

Grade 3

Unit A	Chapter 1	How Plants Live and Grow (this chapter coordinates in With Unit C's Chapter 2 on Soil)
	Chapter 2	How Animals Grow and Change
	Chapter 3	Living Things and Their Environments
Unit B	Chapter 1	Matter and How It Changes
Unit B	Chapter 2	Forces, Machines and Work
Unit C	Chapter 1	(covered in Social Studies curriculum)
	Chapter 3	The Sun, Planets and Moon

Grade 4

Unit C	Chapter 1	Weather (ongoing throughout the Year)
Unit A	Chapter 3	Energy and Ecosystems
Unit A	Chapter 4	Adaptations
Unit B	Chapter 1	Measuring Matter
Unit C	Chapter 2	Makeup of the Earth
Unit C	Chapter 4	Movements/Solar System
Unit B	Chapter 3	Electricity/Magnetism
Unit B	Chapter 4	Light and Sound
Unit A	Chapter 1 &2	Plants and Animals
Unit C	Chapter 3	Exploring the Oceans* (if time permits)

In preparation for the NJ ASK Science teachers are asked to cover all the major concepts within the text and use their judgment as to the depth of instruction need for specific units/chapters. ASK Science Coach should be used for focused test preparation. *Ocean County College Planetarium has been added as a local trip for ALL fourth grades.*

Recommended Teacher Supplemental Resources:

1. Science Journal, "Writing Across the Curriculum" Gr. 2 – 5 (teacher developed material present at summer 2005 workshop)
2. N.J. Coach Science (grade 4) to be used to prepare for NJ ASK
3. NJ ASK review materials (NJDOE)
4. Teacher developed assessments (grade 2)
5. Field trips aligned with science curriculum
6. School level science assemble programs
7. Science web links