

Science News



Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2007

Elementary and Middle School Science

Welcome back to school and welcome to the first Newsletter of the Science Department.

This newsletter will be published monthly to give you important updates about science, including the Chancellor's \$60 million dollar science core curriculum initiative.

We are proud to report that approximately 1200 teachers received five days of professional development training this summer, and another 500 teachers received one day of training on August 31st. We are doing our best to get off to a good start. Please keep an eye on the Dept. of Science webpage (<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/Science>) for information on continued training. Future issues will cover High School Science.

Keep thinking "Inquiry" and "Science Note-booking"! In the meantime, if you need assistance, please feel free to contact us by e-mail.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

IMMEDIATELY FOR 4TH GRADE FOSS

If you are using 4th grade DSM Kits you need to plant the grass and order the organisms immediately. The coupon that came with the kit can be faxed, mailed, or call 1-800-258-1302. Instructions will also be on the NYC science website under Educators resources.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2007

Schools using Core Curriculum science materials (FOSS, Harcourt and Glencoe) will be offered Science Professional Development for the 2nd Unit of Study in NYC K-8 Science Scope and Sequence for Grades 3, 4 and 6 in all five boroughs on Election Day. This PD is only for teachers who did not participate in the five-day summer training. Principals will be receiving information via the Principals' Weekly about registering teachers.

The Department of Mathematics and Science

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Assessments in Science

In support of the Chancellor's New York City science initiative science assessments are being developed. The following assessments will be conducted during the 2007-2008 school year:

Grade 3

Mid-year assessment: Covering Units 1 and 2 (NYC K-8 Science Scope and Sequence)

Date: Mid-January

Format: Multiple Choice

End Year Assessment: Covering Units 1, 2 and 3 (NYC K-8 Science Scope and Sequence)

Format: Similar to the NYS Test, without the performance test.

Date: Mid-late May, 2008

Grade 4

Mid-year assessment: Covering Units 1 and 2 (NYC K-8 Science Scope and Sequence)

Date: Mid-January

Format: Multiple Choice

End Year Assessment: NYS Test

Previously administered versions of the written portion of this test can be found at :

<http://www.nysedregents.org/testing/elementtests.html>

Date: April 11-May 11 NYS Science Performance section

May 1- NYS Science Written Test

Grade 6

Mid-year assessment: Units 1 and 2 (NYC)

Date: Mid-January

Format: Multiple Choice

End Year Assessment: Covering Units 1, 2 and 3 (NYC K-8 Science Scope and Sequence)

Format: Similar to the NYS Test, without the performance test.

Date: Mid-late May, 2008

4th and 8th Grade NYS Tests

Previously administered versions of the written portion of this test can be found at

<http://www.nysedregents.org/testing/elementtests.html>

April 11-May 11 NYS Science Performance section

May 1- NYS Science Written Test

The "New" - New York City Center for Space Science Education

The New York City Center for Space Science Education is located at 220 Henry Street NY, NY. They offer excellent Teacher Professional Development Workshops and Classroom Extensions. For further information the website is: www.nyccsse.org



Core Curriculum Materials

Your school should have received all the materials for Unit 1. If your school did not receive the materials or you are missing materials, the Core Curriculum Team should be contacted at 718-935-3334.

All schools that participated in the Core Curriculum ordering will be receiving **science libraries** in November. These libraries are for 3rd, 4th and 6th grade students. The trade books that have been chosen are for all 4 Units of Study in each of the grades. The books will be delivered in Scholastic boxes, but the books are from a variety of different companies.

Schools using the science Core Curriculum materials will order for Grades K, 1, 2, 5, 7, 8 and accelerated 8 in the spring for the 2008-2009 school year.

If your school did not order enough materials from the Core Curriculum, the Principal can call 718-935-3334 and order materials for the rest of the classes.

Information on the buyback program will be posted shortly on the NYC Science website.

The NYC Science Website

The NYC Department of Education has developed a new website. On that site you can easily find the NYC Department of Science website. The link is:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/Science>

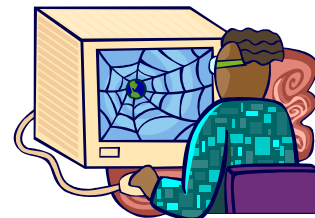
or simply go to the NYC DOE website, click on Academics and then click on Science.

There are three links:

Standards/Curriculum

Parent Resources

Educator Resources



The Educator Resources link is the most important for you. Under this link you will find many important documents and resources to help and guide you with your teaching of science.

The Planning Guide/Pacing Calendar is available for Grades 3, 4 and 6 at this time. Only Unit 1 is posted. The rest of the Units will be posted within the next 2-3 weeks.

The Planning Guide should be the document that drives instruction in your classroom. Once you have become familiar with the document and have the materials from the curriculum your school ordered, you should no longer have to refer to the Scope and Sequence.

The NYC Science Website (con.)

You can only access and download the Planning Guide through a NYCDOE intranet computer. If you do not have access in your school and cannot get the document downloaded after contacting your supervisor, please e-mail RHarris2@schools.nyc.gov or SYoung14@schools.nyc.gov and you will be sent the document.

Please check the website continuously for updates.

The Harcourt, FOSS and Glencoe websites will be shortly linked to our site. The NYC version of these websites will be available soon and we will let you know as soon as they arrive.

In the meantime here are the websites of the publishers:

FOSS/DSM

<http://www.delta-education.com/>

GLENCOE

http://www.glencoe.com/sites/new_york/teacher/science/index.html

HARCOURT

If you link onto the following site your students can access the e-books. When you get to the Harcourt NYC site, click on the e-products link.

http://www.harcourtschool.com/menus/science/index_nyc.html

Grade 3 students: Username: nyork3
Password: science

Grade 4 students: Username: nyork4
Password: science

Science Notebooks

We strongly encourage the use of "Science Notebooks" in your class. By utilizing them, your students will begin to draw, write and think like Thomas Edison, Marie Curie and Louis Latimer. By using science notebooks, students both show evidence for their work and are held accountable for it. By examining student notebooks, you will be able to assess student learning and effectively differentiate lessons.

All schools who received the materials from Core Curriculum also received composition books from Staples labeled science, with a one page insert in to set up a science notebook.

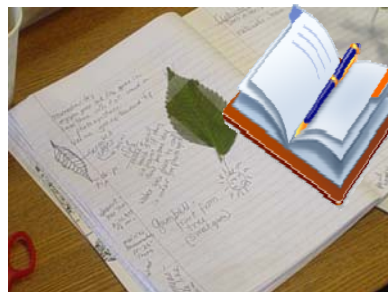
The most important fact is to be consistent and you should also use the notebook to model best practices to your students.

You may e-mail us for any further information in setting up a science notebook.

If your school is using the kit or the blend option, you should have received sets of black line masters for your students. These black line masters are to be used with the FOSS or the DSM kits.

You should have enough for each child in your class and there are perforated pages. You can have the students tear off the pages easily and paste them or tape them in the Science Notebook.

The booklets should have been delivered separately in boxes from Staples.



Professional Organizations

ESSA- Elementary School Science Association – Saturday, November 17th, 2007 is the 29th Annual "Saturday Science" Conference at Francis Lewis High School 9:00AM-2:00PM- To register for the conference contact Mary Bomba at mbomba2@schools.nyc.gov for an application.

STANYS – Science Teachers Association of New York State -all levels
Website: <http://www.stanys.org/>
November 4-6, 2007 112th Annual Conference in Ellenville, NY

NSTA – National Science Teachers Association-all levels
Website: <http://www.nsta.org/>

SCONYC- Science Council of New York City
Website: <http://www.sconyc-ny.org/>