



The Science Department strongly believes that students learn best through hands-on, inquiry based investigations that utilize the Scientific Method. These investigations are conducted in whole class, small group and individual setting dictated by the needs of the students and the material being covered. In addition to being a “Friends of Core Knowledge” school, Peak to Peak strives to integrate other fields of study such as math, reading, writing and social studies into the study of science thus focusing on the goals of the Common Core State Standards. The ultimate goal of our study of science is to produce analytic scientific thinkers, prepared for the challenges they will meet in middle school and equipped to take their place in a world in which science and related fields are of the utmost importance.

Curricular Materials

At Peak to Peak we incorporate both the use of Foss Kits as well as subject sequencing suggested by Core Knowledge to determine each grade level’s yearly sequence of topics. FOSS kits provide exciting inquiry based opportunities for hands-on learning. Investigations are conducted in homeroom class settings. Additionally Peak to Peak is continually working to enhance our learner’s reading and writing skills through the use of scaffolded scientific notebooks appropriate for their grade level. These notebooks provide students with the opportunity to make written observations of investigations they have conducted, and ask them to think critically analyzing results via written responses. Notebooking provides students with writing skills development needed in a wide range of settings in middle school and later in their educational journey. It is aligned to Common Core State Standards.

Fieldtrips & Field Work

Another aspect of the science experience at Peak to Peak is that our staff endeavors to incorporate science experiences beyond the classrooms. Many classes will find themselves conducting investigations outdoors or participating in K-12 science experiences with middle and high school students and staff. Additionally, grade levels include annual field trips with a focus on science to places such as the fourth grade trip to the Larimer County Recycle/landfill/education center where students see science in action.

Assessments

Each grade level provides learners with the opportunity to confirm their knowledge via quizzes and tests structured by the instructor. The timing and content of these assessments are driven by the content of the investigations. Additionally, these evaluations provide students the opportunity to apply their writing skills (again aligning practices with the Common Core State Standards).

Science Fair

A culminating experience for our elementary students takes place in Fifth grade when the students participate in an annual science fair, The winners go on to compete at the secondary level. Students in grades one through four are invited to participate on a volunteer basis.



Science Curriculum Links

Please [click here](#) to access Colorado Science Education Standards.

Please click the links below for sample science curriculums by grade level:

[Kindergarten](#)

[First Grade](#)

[Second Grade](#)

[Third Grade](#)

[Fourth Grade](#)

[Fifth Grade](#)