**SCIENCE**

**GRADE FOUR**

**Curriculum Guide**

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**LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**LINDEN, NEW JERSEY**

**DENISE CLEARY**

**INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT**

**MICHAEL WALTERS**

**ACTING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**ROSE GOLDSTEIN**

**SUPERVISOR OF SCIENCE**

**The Linden Board of Education adopted the Curriculum Guide on:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **August 2019** |  | **Education - Item # 9** |
| **Date** |  | **Agenda Item** |
|  |
| **Rationale****Be it resolved, that all curricula within the following content areas be readopted for use in the Linden Public Schools for the 2019-2020 school year. All curricula are aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.**  |

**Public Notice of Non-Discrimination**

If any student or staff member feels that they have experienced discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender, ancestry, national origin, social or economic status, sexual orientation or disability, contact:

Affirmative Action Officer

Kevin Thurston – (908) 486-5432 ext. 8307; kthurston@lindenps.org

504 Officer & District Anti-Bullying Coordinator

Annabell Louis – (908) 486-2800 ext. 8025; alouis@lindenps.org

Title IX Coordinator

Steven Viana – (908) 486-7085; sviana@lindenps.org

Director of Special Education

Marie Stefanick – (908) 587-3285; mstefanick@lindenps.org

**Linden Public Schools Vision**

The Linden Public School District is committed to developing respect for diversity, excellence in education, and a commitment to service, in order to promote global citizenship and ensure personal success for all students.

**Linden Public Schools Mission**

The mission of the Linden Public School District is to promote distinction through the infinite resource that is Linden’s diversity, combined with our profound commitment to instructional excellence, so that each and every student achieves their maximum potential in an engaging, inspiring, and challenging learning environment.

**Science Department Vision**

Our vision is to develop scientifically literate students, by teaching them to think critically, become problem-solvers, and develop into life-long learners. Our classrooms will be collaborative settings that are driven by discovery, exploratory learning, and which require each student to actively engage throughout the learning to successfully construct explanations and design solutions.

**Science Department Mission Statement**

The mission of the Science Department is to create a community of diverse learners and educators who foster equitable active learning, quantitative reasoning, and scientific inquiry. Through integration of classroom laboratory, research, and practical experiences, students acquire skills necessary for life-long learning, critical thinking, and collaborative problem-solving. Our students will engage in the “Practices of Science” as they investigate the natural and designed worlds seeking to construct explanations for phenomena and design solutions for problems. They will collaboratively ask questions, develop and use models, plan and carry out investigations, analyze data, use mathematics and computational thinking, construct explanations, engage in argument from evidence, and obtain, evaluate, and communicate information. These will serve as foundations for informed, responsible citizens, and their successful careers, in an ever-changing world that is increasingly dependent on evidence-based decision making, science, technology, and engineering.

**Science Department Goals**

The Science Department strives to provide ***all*** students with an engaging program that:

• Captures the imagination and curiosity, producing scientifically literate, life-long learners.

• Develops critical thinking skills, positive science attitudes, and problem-solving skills through collaborative, inquiry centered investigation.

• Provides context and connections to deepen their proficiency in literacy, mathematics, and use of technology; and

 • Continuously improves through professional learning experiences which ensure equity and excellence in on-going, research-based educator development.

1. **Course Description**

The **Soils, Rocks, and Landforms** module provides students with firsthand experiences with soils and rocks and modeling experiences using tools such as topographic maps and stream tables to study the changes to rocks and landforms at Earth’s surface. Students focus on the concepts that weathering by water, ice, wind, living organisms, and gravity breaks rock into smaller pieces, erosion transports earth materials to new locations, and deposition is the result of that transport process that builds new land. Students conduct controlled experiments by changing specific environmental conditions to determine the impact of changing the variables of slope and amount of water in stream tables. Students interpret data from diagrams to build explanations from evidence and make predictions of future events. In the **Environments** module, students focus on the concepts that organisms have structures and behaviors, including sensory receptors, that serve functions in growth, survival, and reproduction. Living organisms depend on one another and on their environment for their survival and survival of populations. Students design investigations to study preferred environments, range of tolerance, and optimum conditions for growth and survival of specific organisms. Students conduct controlled experiments by incrementally changing specific environmental conditions to determine the range of tolerance for early growth of seeds and hatching of brine shrimp and use the data to develop and use models to understand the impact of changes to the environment. The **Energy** module provides a firsthand experience in physical science dealing with energy and change. Students investigate electricity and magnetism as related effects and engage in engineering design while learning useful application of electromagnetism in everyday life. They explore energy transfer through waves, repeating patterns of motion that result in sound and motion. Students learn there is energy present whenever there is motion, electric current, sound, light, and heat and that energy can transfer from one place to another. Students conduct controlled experiments to discover information.

1. **Course Instructional Material**

Soils, Rocks, and Landforms-Full Option Science Systems

Environments – Full Option Science Systems

Energy-Full option Science Systems

1. **Standards Guiding Instruction**

New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science

<https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/science/Index.shtml>

New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts

<https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/ela/Index.shtml>

New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Mathematics

<https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/math/Index.shtml>

New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Social Studies

<https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/socst/index.shtml>

New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Computer Science and Design Thinking

<https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/compsci/Index.shtml>

New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Career Readiness, Life Literacies & Key Skills

<https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/clicks/index.shtml>

1. **Pacing Guide**

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| First | Environments |
| Second | Energy |
| Third | Soils, Rocks, and Landforms |

1. **Curriculum Guide**