



Tower School 4th-6th Grade Science Education ~ Curriculum Overview
Colleen Parenteau ~ colleen.parenteau@towerschool.org ~ Savage Science Lab Rm 251

4th Grade

- 4th graders attend science class three times per week (each class is 45 minutes)
- Students work individually and in cooperative groups to hone their inquiry skills, including observing, questioning, measuring, developing experiments, classifying, building models, and recording, interpreting, and analyzing data.
- Students will learn how to organize and utilize science notebooks to record notes, develop investigations, and reflect upon their scientific thinking.
- Hands-on projects will challenge students to identify problems, build models, and engineer solutions.
- Students are assessed on projects and lab reports using rubrics; 4th grade students do not receive letter grades.
- Topics 4th: Electricity and Energy, Celestial movements of the Earth/Sun/Moon, Sustainable Agriculture, Nutrition & Square-foot Gardening

5th Grade

- 5th graders attend science class three times per week (Two 45-minute classes, One 90-minute class)
- Students continue to develop inquiry skills and are challenged further to observe carefully and objectively as they evaluate the designs of their investigations to reduce experimental error.
- Students will continue to record notes, develop investigations, and reflect upon their learning in their science notebooks.
- Hands-on projects will challenge students to identify problems, build models, and engineer solutions.
- Students are assessed by taking quizzes and tests.
- Projects and lab reports are assessed using rubrics.
- 5th grade students do not receive letter grades in science.
- Students will use Interactive Science workbooks to support their learning.
- Topics 5th: Rocks, Minerals, Soils & Earth's Movements, Coastal Ecology, Buoyancy & Boatbuilding, and Human Evolution & the Integumentary System.

6th Grade

- 6th graders attend science class four times per week (each class is one hour)
- Students continue to develop inquiry skills and are challenged further to develop scientific claims, provide specific evidence to support their conclusions, and critically evaluate their designs.
- Students will look to their class science community to critique and evaluate each others' work and acquire valuable feedback.
- Hands-on projects will challenge students to identify problems, build models, and engineer solutions.
- Students are assessed by taking quizzes, tests, and final exams.
- Projects and lab reports recorded in the science notebook are assessed using rubrics.
- Students receive homework and letter grades.
- Students will use Interactive Science workbooks to support their learning.
- Topics: Pollination, Wetland Ecosystems, Waves ~ Sound & Light, Weather and Climate, and Permaculture Landscape Design.