



The science standards at the middle school build upon the foundation for students to work as scientists by asking testable questions, collecting and analyzing different types of evidence, and by providing rationale for their interpretations through reasoning and/or argumentation. Mastery of these standards will result in students deepening their understanding of science through an application and development of scientific knowledge to the solution of practical problems.

Students will experience all three “strands” of the science standards during their secondary years: physical science, life science, and earth science. The evidence outcomes in middle school blend the core ideas they learn the course with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing usable knowledge across three science disciplines. Students will address the following over the course of their Middle School science experience:

- **Physical Science:** Grade level expectations in middle school physical science are focused in four areas: (1) Matter and its interactions, (2) Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions, (3) Energy, (4) Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer.
- **Life Science:** Grade level expectations in middle school life science are focused in four areas: 1) From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes, 2) Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics, 3) Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits, 4) Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity.
- **Earth and Space Science:** Grade level expectations in middle school Earth and Space Science are focused in three areas: (1) Earth’s Place in the Universe, (2) Earth’s Systems, (3) Earth and Human Activity.

The Colorado Academic Standards for middle school science are presented as a single 6-8 band of standards, rather than broken down by grade level. This means that your child's school district and teacher are responsible for organizing the middle school science standards into courses that best suit their needs and resources.

[Read the middle school science family guide.](#)