

## Lower School Science Course Descriptions

### Kindergarten

The kindergarten science curriculum provides students with the foundations for observing, communicating, measuring, comparing, describing, classifying, predicting, collecting, and interpreting data. It is designed to foster curiosity, inventiveness, persistence, and enthusiasm. Children learn by doing and reflecting upon this active learning. Materials from a variety of programs are utilized to explore life, earth, technology, human, and physical sciences.

### First Grade

The first grade science curriculum provides students with the foundations for observing, communicating, measuring, comparing, describing, classifying, predicting, collecting and interpreting data. It is built to foster curiosity, inventiveness, persistence, and enthusiasm. Children learn by doing and reflecting upon this active learning. Materials from a variety of programs are utilized to explore the scientific method, states of matter, air and weather, magnets, the water cycle, animals, habitats, light and sound, the five senses, food nutrition, and living and nonliving things.

### Second Grade

The Lower School science curriculum provides students with the foundations for observing, communicating, measuring, comparing, describing, classifying, predicting, collecting data, and interpreting data. It is built to foster curiosity, inventiveness, persistence, and enthusiasm. Children learn by doing and reflecting upon this active learning. Materials from a variety of programs are utilized to explore life, earth and space, technology, human and physical sciences. second grade children study balancing and weighing, the solar system and the moon, effects of seasonal changes on plants and animals, soils, plant resources, food chains, the study of weather, matter, energy, motion and force.

### Third Grade

Utilizing Pearson's *Interactive Science* curriculum, students in third grade are provided with opportunities to learn and grow through scientific observation, exploration, and inquiry-based learning. Throughout the many activities, discussions, and labs, we foster curiosity, inventiveness, persistence, and enthusiasm as children learn by doing and reflecting. Investigations throughout the year focus on living things and ecosystems, Earth systems, properties of matter and energy, and forces of motion. Core units of study are taught in a spiral pattern from year to year, building on previous learning in order to develop depth of knowledge and further understanding in many of the same overall topics with new learning opportunities as the grades advance.

## **Fourth Grade**

Our fourth grade program utilizes Pearson's *Interactive Science* curriculum. The school provides each fourth grader with an *Interactive Science* textbook that includes interactive text, science inquiries, and links to digital lessons and activities. The textbook belongs to the student, and daily lessons will involve interaction with text and images that will help with the development of good study skills. Students can expect to engage in a variety of hands-on science inquiry activities during each unit of study. Investigations throughout the year will focus on organisms and ecosystems, space patterns and Earth's resources, and properties of matter and energy. Chapter checkpoints will focus on mastery of key concepts and vocabulary, while unit tests will focus on mastery of concepts and skills learned during an entire unit. Core units of study are taught in a spiral pattern from year to year, building on previous learning in order to develop depth of knowledge and further understanding in many of the same overall topics with new learning opportunities as the grades advance.

## **Fifth Grade**

Our fifth grade program continues with Pearson's *Interactive Science* curriculum. The school provides each fifth grader with an *Interactive Science* textbook that includes interactive text, science inquiries, and links to digital lessons and activities. The textbook belongs to the student, and daily lessons will involve interaction with text and images that will help with the development of good study skills. Students can expect to engage in a variety of hands-on science inquiry activities during each unit of study. Investigations throughout the year will focus on organisms, including humans, and ecosystems, Earth and space systems, Earth's processes, and properties of matter and energy. Chapter checkpoints will focus on mastery of key concepts and vocabulary, while unit tests will focus on mastery of concepts and skills learned during an entire unit. Core units of study are taught in a spiral pattern from year to year, building on previous learning in order to develop depth of knowledge and further understanding in many of the same overall topics with new learning opportunities as the grades advance.