

Dear Parent,



We're excited to have your child in Science at Whitmore Lake Middle School.

This is a very important year in your child's life, and we are pleased to be part of it.

At school, we're building on the skills that your child has already learned and we're introducing new ones. See this side of the brochure for details about what we're doing this year in Science.

At home, your child can practice the skills we're learning at school. See the other side of this brochure for easy things that you can do to encourage that practice.

By working together, we can make sure that your child acquires the skills he or she needs to be successful in school and life.

We look forward to working with you and your child this year. When you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 449-4715.

Sincerely,
The Middle School
Science Teachers

In every grade, we teach Science skills that will help students:

Learn by investigating

- Use scientific methods to ask questions, conduct investigations using technology, and gather, analyze, and communicate information.

Understand living things

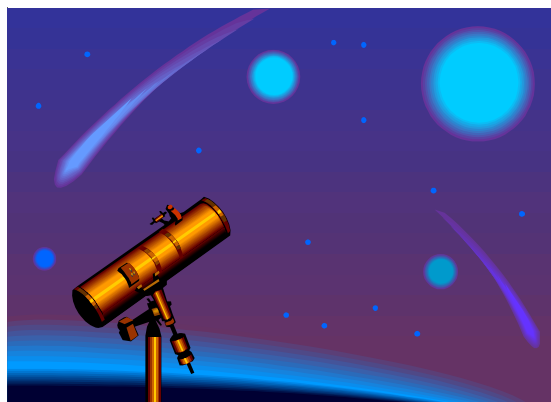
- Understand the structure and function of living things, their systems and how living things interact with the environment.

Understand natural forces

- Understand the interactions between matter, energy, forces, and motion.

Understand earth and space

- Understand the cycles and systems of the Earth, solar system and universe.



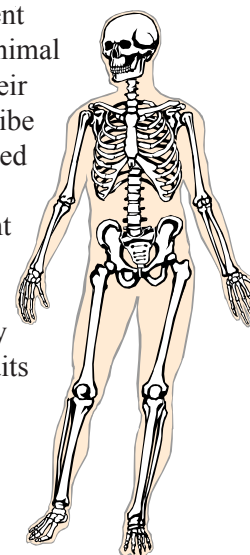
In Middle School, we teach Science skills that will help your child:

Learn by investigating

- Design and build projects related to the subject.
- Perform experiments and hands-on activities to support the subject area.

Understand living things

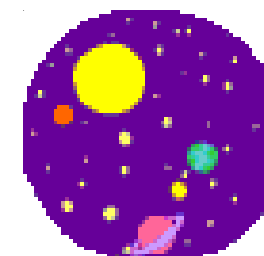
- Describe the different parts of plant and animal cells and explain their function; also describe the role of specialized cells.
- Explain the different body and organ systems.
- Understand heredity and explain how traits are passed from parent to offspring.
- Understand the concept of natural selection.
- Classify living things such as vertebrates and invertebrates into the six kingdom system.
- Understand the relationship between different parts of an ecosystem.



Understand natural forces

- Describe electrical charges and their movement.
- Describe how force is related to the motion of objects.
- Show how electrical current is used to create a magnetic field.

- Describe different types of simple machines and explain their advantages.
- Identify common physical and chemical changes in matter.
- Explain how sound travels through different media.
- Describe different forms of energy.
- Describe how light reflects, refracts and is absorbed by matter.



Understand earth and space

- Describe the structure of the interior of the Earth.
- Explain how rocks are formed in the rock cycle process.
- Explain how rocks are broken down to form soil.
- Explain the causes of weather phenomenon.
- Describe Earth's surface features and landforms.
- Describe how water cycles throughout the Earth to provide us with fresh water.
- Describe and compare the motions of the objects in the solar system and universe.
- Explain how fossils are used to understand the age and geological history of the Earth.
- Describe common features of objects in the night sky such as constellations.

Parents:
Here are some easy ways to help your child practice Science skills.

Learn by investigating

- Support your child's participation in the annual science fair.
- Read and discuss a science article from a newspaper or magazine.
- Visit science museums (University of Michigan's Natural History Museum, Hands On Museum) including those in different states.
- Chaperone class field trips.
- Watch science-based television programs such as Discovery Channel, Weather Channel, Public Television, and the Learning Channel.



Understand living things

- Chaperone field trips.
- Watch scientific television channels such as: Discovery Channel, Animal Planet.
- Help your child keep an aquarium or terrarium.

- Observe the nature in the local area close up for study purposes.
- Involve your child in outdoor activities (fishing, hiking, nature walks, photography).
- Create a family tree and identify common physical characteristics of family members.
- Visit the zoo and Botanical Garden.



Understand natural forces

- Identify chemical and physical changes in everyday life such as boiling water.
- Relate different simple machines as part of complex machines, such as bicycles.
- Take a tour of a power company to observe how electricity is monitored.
- Visit the Detroit Science Center, COSI Museum in Toledo and the Hands On Museum.

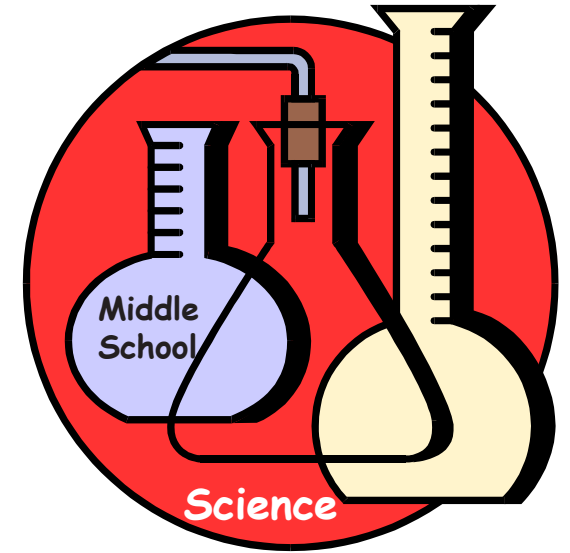


For more good ideas, ask your child's teacher, or contact:

Whitmore Lake Middle School
8877 Main Street • Whitmore Lake
Michigan • 48189
(734) 449-4715 • <http://www.wlps.net>

Understand earth and space

- Observe the sky together and identify a few constellations.
- Identify and discuss how unique landforms in your area were formed.
- Chaperone class field trips.
- Watch science-based television programs such as Discovery Channel, Weather Channel, Public Television, and the Learning Channel.
- Ask grandparents or senior citizens about changes to the environment during their lives.
- Ask your child about the topics covered in class and discuss them.
- Visit a university observatory.



Whitmore Lake Middle School

In Middle School, we're teaching your child important discovery skills.

What are these skills?

How can you help your child practice them?