



# Oak Park Elementary School District 97

260 Madison Oak Park Illinois 60302 ph: 708.524.3000 fax: 708.524.3019 www.op97.org

To: Members, Board of Education  
Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent

From: Dr. Amy Warke, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer  
Dr. Helen Wei, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Dr. Carrie Kamm, Director of Organizational Learning

Re: 6-8 Science Curriculum Implementation 2017

Date: July 18, 2017

Purpose: The purpose of this informational report is to provide information regarding Middle School Science Curriculum Implementation for the 2017 school year.

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## **Background**

Whenever the Teaching and Learning department works with teams, the district's vision of creating a positive learning environment that is equitable, inclusive and focused on the whole child is at the forefront of our discussion. In addition to the vision, when determining programming and curriculum we also use our district goals to assist us with benchmarking. These goals are:

- Every student is known, nurtured and celebrated learner
- Every student is an empowered passionate scholar
- Every student is a confident and persistent achiever
- Every student is a creative critical thinker and global citizen

The science materials at both Brooks and Julian Middle Schools have not been updated in over 10 years. For the past two school years, the teachers have been developing units of study aligned to the IB principles. In April, a small team began investigating resources to supplement the units of study.

The team considered a resource purchase, but determined that the resource was not aligned with our vision and goals for learners. The focus shifted to working with our units and what teachers have already developed over the past two years.

## **Partnership with California State University**

Dr. Kathy Hayden is a professor at California State University, San Marcos. Dr. Hayden has worked across the country with teachers using units that are already developed in districts and incorporating computational thinking and leveraging students as empowered learners. Dr. Hayden will audit our units of study and assist teachers with developing lessons incorporating computational thinking skills, work with the staff on using

Canvas to deliver the content, and further incorporate IL Science Standards (based on Next Generation Science Standards) into units and lessons. Our goal is to work towards interdisciplinary units at the middle school level.

For sample lessons previously developed by CSU with teacher teams, please see:

<http://campus.csusm.edu/cyberquest/resources/TechQuests.html>

### **Professional Learning Schedule for Teachers**

<b>August 16, 17, 18 2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide 6 hours (each day; 18 hours total) of professional development to middle school science teachers, special education teachers who co-teach science and teacher librarians.</li></ul>
<b>October 26 &amp; 27 2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide 6 hours (each day; 12 hours total) of professional development to middle school science teachers, special education teachers who co-teach science, and teacher librarians</li></ul>
<b>February 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Facilitate month long, asynchronous/virtual professional development module with middle school science teachers, special education teachers who co-teach science, and teacher librarians</li></ul>
<b>April 26 &amp; 27 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide 6 hours (each day; 12 hours total) of professional development to middle school science teachers, special education teachers who co-teach science, and teacher librarians.</li></ul>

As part of our agreement with Dr. Hayden, quarterly progress reports will be submitted to monitor lesson development and professional development outcomes. The cost for Dr. Hayden's consulting, professional development facilitation, and resources will be \$70,000.00.