

# MEMO

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**TO:** Superintendent Jeff Stephens, Board President Jon Ritchie, WSD Board Members

**FROM:** Sheri Heiter

**DATE:** January 25, 2021

**SUBJECT:** The New Face of Science - Board Presentation

New science standards for grades K-5 and 9-12 were adopted by the Utah State Board of Education in 2019 and were implemented in Weber School District this year. These standards are referred to as the *Utah Science with Engineering Education (SEEd) Standards* and represent a substantial shift in the way science is taught, experienced and assessed.

Science instruction is now phenomenon-based and is centered on authentic learning experiences in which exploration of natural, observable events help students better make sense of the universe. Further, instruction and learning experiences include a three-dimensional approach which is based on:

- science and engineering practices that encourage students to act like scientists by asking questions, using models, designing and performing investigations and constructing explanations;
- cross-cutting concepts that support students in thinking like scientists by focusing on a what they observe and making connections to ideas using organizational structures such as patterns, cause and effect and structure and function; and
- disciplinary core ideas that are composed of the actual science content students must know and be able to apply.

Maggie Huddleston, our K-12 Science Teacher Leader, will share student and teacher experiences from the first five months of implementation and will give Board members a feel for the manner in which students now experience science instruction.

Maggie will be introduced by Sheri Heiter.