

District 96

K-5 Science Curriculum Recommendation



District 96 Board Committee of the Whole Meeting
April 3, 2024

K-5 Science Curriculum Review Committee



- Brittany Aiyash - 1st Grade (AES)
- Melissa Determann - Kindergarten (CES)
- Carolyn Dirienzo - 1st Grade (BPES)
- Tina Duve - 4th Grade (AES)
- Jen Graf - 3rd Grade (BPES)
- Chrissy Guastella - 2nd Grade (AES)
- Jessica Kamego - Kindergarten (BPES)
- Rachel King - 4th Grade (BPES)
- Nikki Mazza - 5th Grade (CES)
- Ryan Murray - 2nd Grade (HES)
- Amy Seymour - 5th Grade (AES)
- Ariel Shilitz - 3rd Grade (AES)
- Angela Dolezal - Dir of Teaching & Learning

Science Curriculum Review Timeline



- ❑ September 2022
 - ❑ Committee members identified
 - ❑ Introductory Work
 - ❑ Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
 - ❑ Identify key components for Science Resource
 - ❑ Process for evaluation
 - ❑ Defined Learning
 - ❑ Potentially Science Studies Weekly and Mystery Science
- ❑ October 2022 - December 2022
 - ❑ Defined Learning Professional Learning
 - ❑ Each grade level piloted one module
 - ❑ Mid-point check-in and professional learning
 - ❑ Final check-in to determine if Defined Learning was a good resource

Science Curriculum Review Timeline



- September 2023 - November 2023
 - Science Studies Professional Learning
 - Pilot Science Studies Weekly
 - Final Review of Grade Level Pilots
- January 2024 - March 2024
 - Mystery Science Professional Learning
 - Pilot Mystery Science
 - Final Review of Grade Level Pilots
- March 2024
 - Committee finalized recommendation

District 96 Science Curriculum Non-Negotiables

- ❑ Next Generation Science Standards Aligned
- ❑ Clear Scope and Sequence for each grade level
- ❑ Real World Connections/Anchoring Phenomenon
- ❑ Regular Hands-On Experiences
- ❑ Student and Teacher Ease of Use
- ❑ Bilingual Resources
- ❑ Assessments with Rubrics
- ❑ Incorporate STEAM
- ❑ Engaging and Fun

Following Defined Learning Pilot

Strengths

- Real World Connections
- Hands-On Experiences
- Engaging (concepts and projects)
- Provides collaboration opportunities
- Provides multiple ways for students to demonstrate their learning

Challenges

- Not a defined scope and sequence
- Difficult platform to navigate, even with professional learning
- Projects usually need to be adapted
- Usually used as a supplemental curriculum
- Not enough supports for students who need intervention or enrichment or are English Learners

Following Science Studies Weekly Learning Pilot

Strengths

- Anchor Phenomenon and Performance Task
- Hands-On Exploration (about one a unit)
- Compatible with Schoology
- Core lessons available in Spanish
- Assessments are standards aligned
- Students Engaged
- “Living Curriculum”

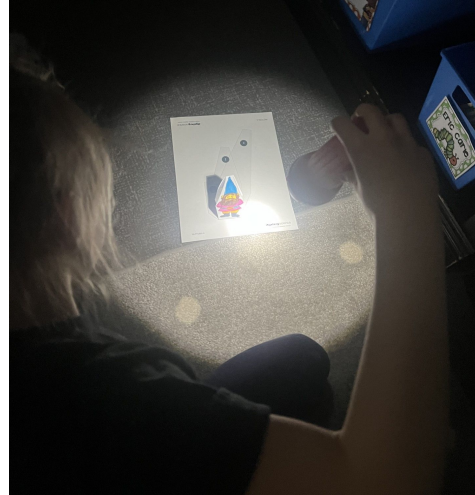
Challenges

- Each unit essentially only covered one standard
- “Magazine” hard for students at all grade levels to use
- Not fully developed; platform hard to navigate
- Repetitive and did not feel meaningful
- Students usually did not understand the connection between overall theme and minute points
- More writing/less doing

Following Mystery Science Learning Pilot

Strengths

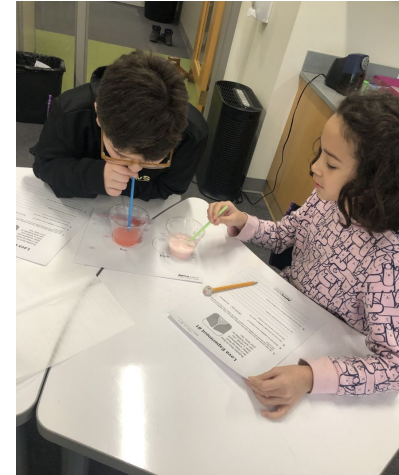
- Anchor Phenomenon Engages Students From Start
- Relates to Everyday Life
- Hands-On Experiences
- Student and Teacher Ease of Use
- Compatible With Schoology
- Spanish Resources
- Vocabulary Slides With Definitions and Pictures



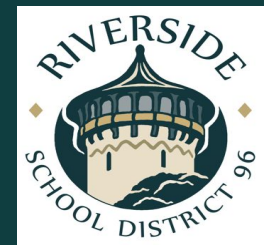
Following Mystery Science Learning Pilot

Strengths

- Various Assessments
- STEAM Is Found In Some Lessons
- Engaged Students
- Science Experiments In Almost Every Lesson
- Weekly Curiosity Jar/Mini Mysteries
- Diversity In Content and Presentation
- Extensions For Lessons
- “Living Curriculum”



West 40 School District Adoptions



District	Year Adopted
Rhodes School District 84.5	2021
*Union Ridge School District 86	2021
Bellwood School District 88	2022
*Komarek School District 94	2022
Berwyn South School District 100	2021
*LaGrange South School District 105	2016
*Pleasantdale School District 107	2021

*West Suburban Consortium of Academic Excellence (WSCAE) School Districts

Financial Implications

Mystery Science

K-5



3-Year District Membership	Supplies	Professional Learning	Total Cost SY25		SY26 Cost (Membership & Supplies)	SY27 Cost (Membership & Supplies)	Total 3-Year Savings
12,555 (4,185 per year)	8,000	1200	13,385		12,185	12,185	5,436

STEAM

- ❑ Teach with Mystery Science for a year
- ❑ Document where STEAM activities occur at each grade level
- ❑ Determine where gaps in STEAM experiences occur
- ❑ Plan to address the gaps in the 2025-2026 school year



Thank you.
Questions?