Fourth Grade Science
Course Description

Overview for Parents

Teacher: Jessica Nichols
Email: jessica.nichols@crossroadsacademy.org
Phone: 603 795-3111 x107

Course Overview
The fourth grade science course follows the Core Knowledge Sequence. The class will meet twice per week, once for a single and once for a double period. It will emphasize hands-on learning and scientific experimentation. An overview of major course goals and approximate timing is outlined below.

1. Scientific Methods and Introduction to Matter (August - September)
   - Observation and Measurement
   - Experimental Methods
   - Graphing and Data Analysis
   - Matter and Energy Overview
   - Physical Properties of Matter
     - Mass
     - Volume
     - Density
   - Phases of Matter and Phase Change

2. Meteorology (October - December)
   - Apply concepts of temperature, density, and pressure to understand major weather phenomena
   - Cloud Formation and Cloud Types
   - Pressure and Temperature
   - The Water Cycle
   - Structure of the Atmosphere
   - Air Masses, Fronts and Forecasting
   - Weather vs. Climate
   - Global Wind Patterns
   - Climate Change
   - Severe Weather (Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Blizzards, Droughts, Floods) and Impacts

3. Geology (January - February Break)
   - Apply concepts from Matter II to understand formation of rocks and minerals
   - Rocks and Minerals
   - Plate Tectonics
   - Earthquakes and Volcanoes
   - Weathering and Erosion
4. Electricity (February 25 - March)
   - Voltage, Current, Resistance and Ohm’s Law,
   - Insulators and Conductors
   - Types of Circuits, Circuit Diagrams, and Building Circuits
   - Electromagnets
   - Methods of Electricity Generation

5. Human Anatomy and Physiology (April - June)
   - Respiratory System (April)
     - Major Organs and Tissues
     - Gas Exchange and Cellular Respiration
     - Effects of Pranayama (yogic breathing)
     - Student Experimental Design

   - Cardiovascular System (May - June 7, End Q4)
     - Major Organs and Tissues
     - Blood Pressure and Pulse Points
     - The Cardiac Cycle
     - Heart Dissection
     - Effects of Asanas (Yogic Postures)
     - Student Experimental Design