

VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT THIRTY

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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Valley Stream 30 Community,

Science Curriculum

Thank you to Jerry Poole, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Ronni Horowitz and Ralph Laudano, Chairs of Science Curriculum Circle, for an informative presentation last Thursday evening, March 4th, to building-level team members and members of the public. The presentation provided an overview of our upcoming and ongoing Science Curriculum plans, as well as presentations from three vendors -- Foss, STC and BOCES Science 21 -- regarding possible resources to support our Science program. Below are some highlights from the presentation:

The Valley Stream District Thirty Frameworks for Science is based on:

- New York State Learning Standards
- Learning Through Inquiry
- Supported By Literature
- Infused with 21st Century Skills
- Environmentally Themed
- Utilizes District Technologies

The New York State Science Standards are available on the New York State website, www.nysed.gov.

The presentation featured characteristics of the 21st century student: flexibility and adaptability, initiative and self-direction, social and cross-cultural skills, productivity and accountability, global awareness, civic literacy and health literacy, creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, communication and collaboration, information literacy and media literacy.

The Science Curriculum is divided into content and process strands. Content is divided between the **living environment** (for example, senses, plants and animals, life cycles, ecology, ecosystems, the human body, taxonomy and genetics) and the **physical setting** (properties of objects, interactions and systems, weather, rocks and minerals, restless earth, energy, electricity and magnetism, forces and motion, chemistry).

Process skills include: formulate questions, solve problems, construct explanations, collect data, organize data, identify patterns, analyze information, predict outcomes, make models, measure, observe, describe, classify, sequence, compare and contrast, understand systems and their interactions.

As you know, Science instruction is one of our Valley Stream 30 Strategic Goals for the next five years. We will share specific implementation timetables with you in future newsletters and other District communications.

Snow Day Makeup?

Parents have been working on their calendars and wondering if Valley Stream 30 will have to add an additional day to this school year to make up for recent snow days when school was closed. There will be **NO additional day** added to this year's calendar, as there were enough days in the calendar to accommodate state requirements, even considering the days we were closed.

Budget

Will be discussed at March 15th Board of Education Work Session, 8:00 p.m. at Shaw Avenue Library and at March 22nd Board of Education Business meeting where it is anticipated that the Board will adopt a proposed budget for 2010-11.

I wish everyone a good weekend! Please email (ekanas@vs30.org) or call me (285-9881, ext. 222) with any suggestions, comments, questions, etc.

Sincerely,

Elaine Kanas
Elaine Kanas, Ed.D.