



**Science Exploration  
Grades 3/4  
Teacher: Kathy Pierson**

**August 26, 2008**

Dear Parents,

I am excited to get started with science studies for the year! Enclosed is your child's schedule for the year, schedule for our first unit on trees, reading from 'Flash Chart, Trees' and homework pages. Please have your child complete the homework each week to maximize his (her) learning experience. \*\*Please note that there is homework to prepare for our first class on Tuesday, September 2nd. Each family will need a copy of Abeka grades 4&5 science textbooks. Students should come to class each week with a 3-ring binder with 6 subject dividers. The student's name should be clearly written on the front of their notebook. Also include 3/4 grade science with my name. This will help get your child's notebook returned safely in the case that it is forgotten at co-op. Label each division with the following titles: 1)trees 2)human body 3)weather 4)simple machines 5)light/sound 6)birds. Please clearly mark your child's backpack with his (her) name on the outside, where it can be clearly seen. Other personal items (lunch box, coat, science items brought in, etc, should be clearly labeled as well). This will be extremely helpful when we try to match belongings with children at the end of class.

I will have a helper with me during each science class. Helpers will assist students with the many hands on projects done in class as well as looking over homework.

We will be studying a scientist for each unit this year. Two students in each class will report on the scientist for each topic. Every student will be asked to report on a scientist once during the year. Reports will then be displayed at the end of the year co-op event so that all parents and students can learn from them and see what we have been studying. Details for scientist reports will be given out soon.

Please do not stress over homework. Some students will find the assignments very simple and be able to complete the material on their own. Others will need a parent to read the material and help them with the homework pages. For the student that wants to study a topic further, I will list optional activities, reading and Internet resources. Remember to look on the assignment/download page on the ACTS website to find optional reading material lists for each unit. Also, if a student misplaces a handout, a new copy can be made from the same page on the ACTS website.

Field trips will be scheduled to go along with our class studies when possible. One parent per family will need to read the field trip guidelines located on the ACTS website prior to registering for a field trip. There will be a place for you to sign on the field trip registration indicating that you have read and will adhere to these guidelines. With many new families participating in the Science Explore program each year, science explore teachers found it necessary to communicate details of field trip guidelines. Thank you in advance for your help in this area to assure that field trips go smoothly. Field trips will be scheduled on Friday afternoons when possible. Field trips are optional, but will enhance learning about the topic. If you would be willing to help with organizing or collecting registrations for field trips, please let me know. Field trip assistants receive reduced or free entry into the field trip that they plan. Occasionally, we will have a guest speaker present classtime material. Guests will be experts in the field that we are studying. Students will have a report to complete twice during the year. These reports will occur during weather and birds.

Please let me know if your child has any food allergies, as we occasionally will have food prizes for certain activities. An alternative prize is given to students who need one. If you have questions or concerns, please e-mail or call me. When I need to communicate to you, I will be using e-mail, so please check it regularly. If you know ahead of time that your child will not be in class, if possible, please e-mail me to let me know. It is helpful to know how many students will be in class each week as I plan activities.

I look forward to meeting new students and their parents as well as seeing returning families soon! I have enjoyed studying the topics for this year over the summer, and hope that students will be as excited about science as I have been as I learned so many awesome things about our world that God has created.

☺ Kathy