

**ACTS Science Explore 1/2 2011-12**  
**Ms. Sealander**

**Course Overview:**

**Trees:** 5 weeks 9/6 – 10/4

**Human Body:** 10 weeks 10/11– 1/10

**Weather:** 5 weeks 1/17 – 2/14

**Simple Machines:** 4 weeks 2/21 – 3/13

**Sound & Light:** 5 weeks 3/20 – 4/24

**Birds:** 5 weeks 5/1 – 5/22

Hello First & Second Grade Parents,

I'm excited about teaching your kids this year! We are going to have a lot of fun through many hands-on learning experiences in science class. I wanted to go over with you a little bit of how this class will run. Some of you are familiar with the ACTS Science Explore classes, but others may be new.

For each new unit, I will send home a unit schedule with your child. This will outline what topics you should read about each week and will list the optional assigned reading, the homework and the class activities. Homework worksheets will be sent home in your child's three ring binder each week. The homework will be age appropriate and should not take too long to complete.

**Homework:** Homework helps your child to review the concepts we have explored in class. I know some weeks you may not have time to complete the work, but a quick initial or "we ran out of time" helps me to know that at least you saw the homework. My helper will check that homework was completed at the beginning of each class period and give out stickers. We will not have time to *correct* the answers, so please go over the work with your child.

**Reading/Resource Lists:** You have two options for books this year. The first option is to get books on the listed weekly topic from the library or use ones you own. A second option is to purchase books from the first and second grade-reading list (see below). This option is good if you would rather not make an extra trip to the library.

***You do not need to purchase these books.***

The list is meant as a convenience to parents. Each unit schedule will list pages to

read from these books as an option for you. The homework worksheets will reinforce the topic of the week/unit, but are not dependent upon you owning this particular book. (i.e. the HW stands alone.)

**Field trips:** Field trip opportunities will usually be listed on your unit schedule with more information available on the ACTS website. Sometimes I will alert you by email of a new field trip opportunity. These optional outside trips are always a lot of fun and reinforce what your child is learning at home and at ACTS.

**Materials needed:** Each student needs a 3 ring binder (1" is great) with six subject dividers. Please label the dividers with the names of our units (in order):

- Trees
- Human Body
- Weather
- Simple Machines
- Light/Sound
- Birds

Also, make sure your child's name, K or 1/2 Science, and the class period - are clearly marked on the front of the binder. This will help us in collecting/passing out assignments and also help to return the binder if it is misplaced at ACTS. Please email or call with any questions or suggestions you may have during the year. I will send a brief email each week after class to recap what we did at ACTS. I know this is helpful with younger students.

Sincerely,  
Pamella Sealander  
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Optional Book List:

Trees by Peter Mellett

Usborne Science and Your Body by Rebecca Huddle  
Can It Rain Cats and Dogs?: Questions and Answers about Weather (Scholastic) Gilda and Melvin Berger

Machines: Fantastic Facts by Chris Oxlade

Sound and Light (Kingfisher Young Discoverers) by David Glover

Birds (DK Explorer) Jill Bailey & David Burnie