



Pocono Mountain School District

Office of Curriculum and Instruction

East Junior High School

PO Box 200 • Swiftwater, PA 18370 • 570-839-7121

Dear Pocono Mountain School District Families,

The district is pleased to announce that we have adopted a new science series for students in grades 6-8 called Inspire Science, by McGraw Hill.

The new series is designed in a way to complete the mandatory shifts in science standards decided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The state suggests an integrated approach to science in grades 6-8.

- Grade 6 students will use the Inspire Science Grade 6 materials.
- Grade 7 students will use the Inspire Science Grade 8 materials.
- Grade 8 students will use the Inspire Science Grade 7 materials.

The textbook sequence for Grades 7 and 8 has been intentionally adjusted to align more closely with the new, integrated STEELS Standards and the content assessed on the Grade 8 PSSA. The grade-level books and resources are designed to be developmentally appropriate for intermediate and junior high school students, matching their reading levels. The primary difference between the materials for each grade lies in the specific topics and content taught. This new series emphasizes a hands-on, inquiry-based approach to learning, where activities come before content. It encourages communication, investigation, and making meaningful connections to core science concepts.

Your child will be exposed to the four main domains of science which include Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, and Engineering Design. Each of these domains are turned into “modules” within Inspire Science and are further separated into lessons. Lessons typically range from one week to one month, depending on your child’s grade level.

Participation is extremely important with the new shift in science education. Your child will be asked to participate in discussions on a daily basis and will be taught how to make and revise predictions on an ongoing basis.

If you would like to learn more about the new science series, here are some great videos that outline the core concepts and practices of McGraw Hill Inspire, and also provide parental support.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xfz2XQxQbaA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNyWs8ZEJEI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivjH4x1-Mcg>

We are excited to implement this new science curriculum and look forward to seeing your child thrive in our classrooms!

Sincerely,

Amy Catalano

Ms. Amy Catalano

Director of Curriculum and Instruction: Math and Science