
The Science Scoop

by Mr. Arroyo

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Hello Nathan Hale Families!

This is what's happening in the virtual science classroom.

Wow! What a year!

This school year will be very different from last year. This goes without saying. We have added a 6th-grade class to the Nathan Hale School. This means that I will be teaching 8 different grade levels and over 150 students every week. We will have some challenges but with a little bit of patience, we will overcome them. Remember, we are all in this together. I am working very hard to ensure I meet everyone's needs in the classroom. If you reach out to me I will make sure to respond to you as quickly as possible. Please understand that even the simplest thing takes a bit longer over the computer.

The science classes are scheduled for 50 minute periods throughout the day. During the day I will teach 5 periods to 5 different classes. Each class has its own Zoom link. This link will be activated at the regularly scheduled time, not before. If a student attempts to enter the Zoom link before the class has started a notification will be displayed letting them know that the link is not active yet. I have been holding office hours at 3:05 pm. The link to my office hours has been posted to all the Google

Science Classrooms. Please reach out by email or stop by my office with any concerns.

This year the district has switched the distribution of the science materials. The units have been aligned so that we start the year with the Earth Science units. The exception is K1 and K2. They will be starting the year with a life science unit. The main vendor for our units is the Full Option Science System or FOSS for short. All students have been linked to the [FOSS](#) website through the [Clever](#) application. The only way for students to access FOSS is to first navigate to Clever and then clicking on the FOSS app. Unfortunately, we are not able to link FOSS directly to the google classroom. It is in this application that the student's "ebooks" for each unit of study are located. The system has a few options for students to access the student book. The PDF option works just like a regular hard copy book. The HTML option will read the book to the students, it has videos and definitions of vocabulary words. The Spanish version will display the student book in Spanish. In addition to the student book, some units have a variety of online resources.

This week has been somewhat challenging because the FOSS website has not been accessible to students or teachers. For this reason, I have asked Ms. Teque for permission to send the students hard copy books home. I feel that having the actual book at home will help with some of the frustrations

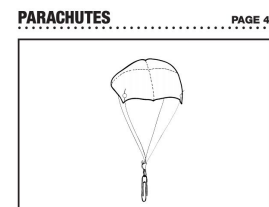
associated with dealing with the FOSS website.

In addition to the FOSS site, the district has made the Seesaw application available. This application is also located within the Clever portal. This is a great way for me to communicate with all of you. Please connect to my Seesaw classroom with an updated email so that I can communicate with you. Along with the Seesaw, I will also be using the Nearpod application when necessary. This application has science materials and it will allow me to assign content to the students in addition to FOSS. I have tried contacting families using emails listed in the Student Information System but I feel some emails are not updated.

Most of the student work will be assigned and completed throughout the Google Science Classroom. I can add you to your student's classroom if you like. Please send me an email from your email address with your student's name and grade and I will send you an invitation. My email address is Larroyo2@bostonpublicschools.org

1st

Our **1st graders** started the year with the Air and Weather unit.



2nd

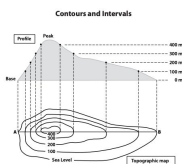
In the 2nd grade, the students are working with solid earth materials. Rocks! The unit “Pebbles Sand and Silt” covers the properties of rocks, weathering, and erosion.

3rd

In 3rd grade, we have been working with the Water and Climate unit. The unit starts with the properties of water and will end with the water cycle.

4th

In 4th grade, we are working with the Soils, Rocks, and Landforms unit. The unit starts with the properties and composition of soils. Then we move into rocks, erosion, and weathering. We will look at landforms towards the end.



5th

The 5th-graders have been working with the Earth and Sun unit. At the beginning of the unit, students learned about the position of the Earth in relation



to the sun.

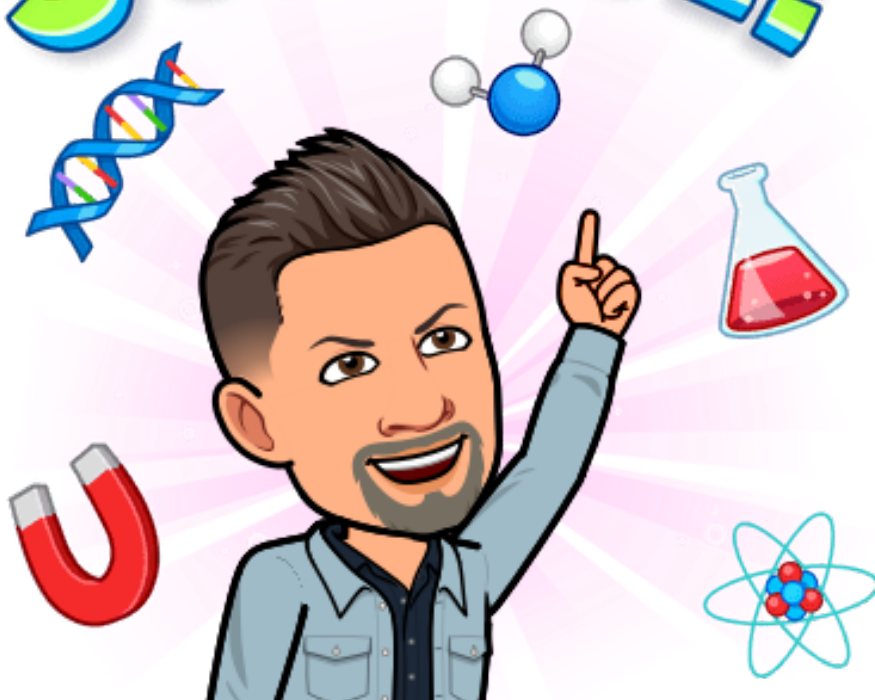
6th

Our 6th graders have been working with a sound unit that is part of the OpenSciEd

curriculum.



SCIENCE!



Don't forget to look up into the night sky. You should be able to see the planet Mars. It will be very bright and have a yellowish tint.

