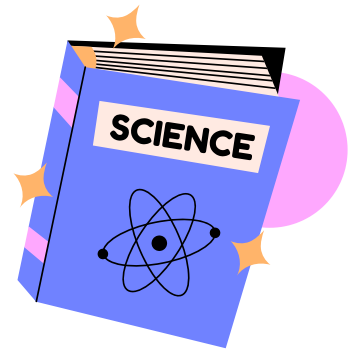


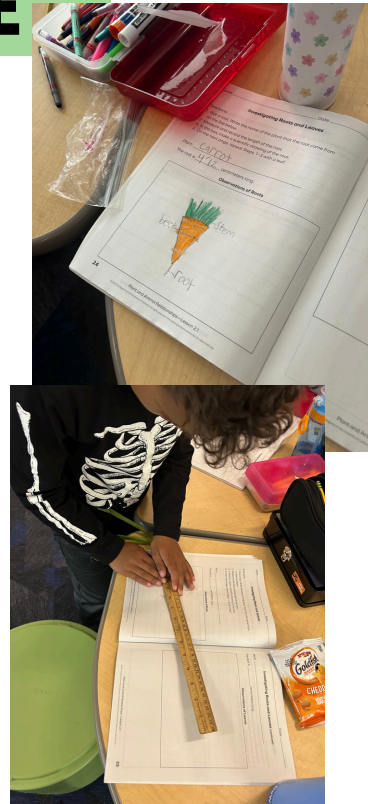
FALL
24'

UCS SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT K-5



KINDER THROUGH 2ND GRADE

2nd grade students at DeKeyser transformed into plant scientists. They are investigating parts of plants by measuring, modeling, and determining their function. This is one way teachers are bringing the Amplify Science curriculum to life in the classroom!



3RD GRADE THROUGH 5TH GRADE

None to report- hopefully next month's newsletter! Send in your fun science news through the link below.

FEEDBACK FORM FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS

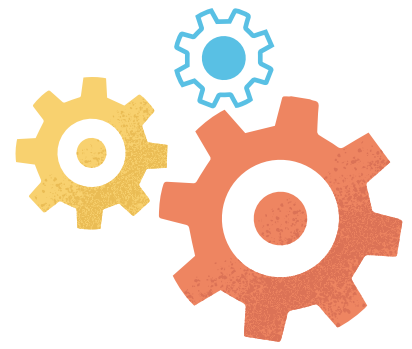


Please use the Google form to share any fun science activities you are doing within in your classroom! You may also use it to ask any science curriculum questions. Please understand that teachers will be handling this feedback, so use it for constructive and creative purposes only.

[SEND US YOUR SCIENCE NEWS!](#)

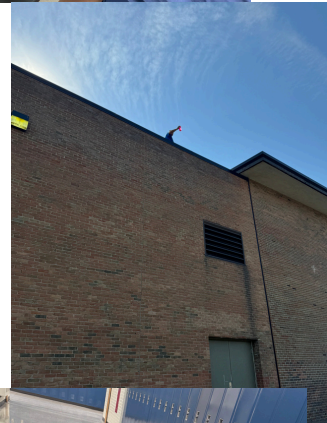


UCS SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT 6-12



6TH GRADE THROUGH 8TH GRADE

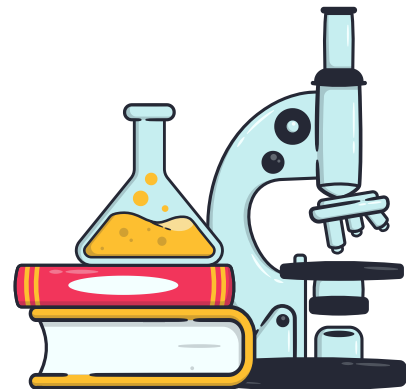
- Freshmen at Jeannette Junior High engaged in a collaboration activity the first week of school. In this activity some members of the group had to give verbal instructions on how to assemble a 24-piece jigsaw puzzle to a teammate who had to keep their eyes closed the whole time! Only the student with their eyes closed were allowed to handle the puzzle pieces. They had to rely on their classmates for direction. There were some successful groups throughout the day, but all groups' communication skills improved and evolved throughout the activity.
- 8th grade students at Shelby Junior High engaged in an Open Sci-Ed activity testing contact forces by witnessing objects being thrown off the roof of the school. 8th graders predicted the damage each object would endure based on the mass of the object and speed it would fall. Items tested were a filled water bottle, empty water bottle, golf ball, play doh, bowling balls, watermelon, pumpkins, and a bouncy ball.
- To celebrate Halloween, 8th grade students at Shelby Junior High studied the famous Pumpkin Chunkin event that takes place in Delaware each year. They used science and engineering practices to create their own catapult out of various materials. They designed, tested, and redesigned these catapults to see who could chuck a candy corn pumpkin the farthest. The farthest distance was 12 feet by Team Pickles! 7th grade students are currently using the Open Sci-Ed curriculum and studying density. They completed a potion lab. They had to weigh their potions to calculate the density and then stack them in the right order to create a special potion!



FALL
24th



UCS SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT 9-12



9TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE

- The students in Analytical Chemistry (Forensic Science) have been learning about blood and how height affects spatter. They designed an experiment to test height vs. the diameter of the blood drop. Next month, students will be traveling to Lawrence Technological University to conduct blood spatter analysis experiments to determine how distance, angle, and speed of blood droplets affect the splatter pattern. Using their knowledge of blood spatter physics, students will analyze blood evidence from a crime scene and solve a mystery.
- Chemistry students have been testing out a new program called Chemix. Check it out by clicking the link: [Chemix - Draw Lab Diagrams. Simply.](#)
- Freshmen across the district are now taking biology using the New Visions curriculum! At JJH, 9th grade students are investigating the effects of sugar on the cellular respiration of yeast cells in their first unit called "Marathon Runner".
- While at UHS, 9th grade students are engaging in a lab to investigate cellular respiration in yeast, allowing them to better understand how the cells in their body perform cellular respiration. This information will be used to address the unit phenomenon of why a runner went into a comma shortly after running a marathon. As the unit progresses students will learn about how the body maintains homeostasis and how someone could fall ill if the body is unable to do so.



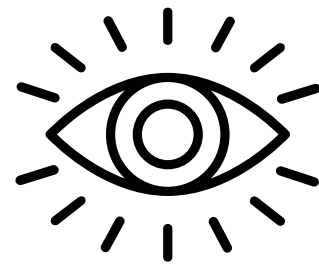


UCS SCIENCE UPDATES VISION/CURRICULUM



VISION PROGRESS

- All 6th through 12th grade science teachers met on September 18th to begin the process of better aligning their classrooms to the science vision and the overall district strategic plan. Teachers reviewed an article titled "The Someday/Monday Dilemma" and discussed how they could begin to spiral their strategies and classroom activities to move toward our science vision. At our October professional learning day, teachers continued sharing their "plan" for their spiral and gave some feedback on what they tried and how they felt it impacted their classes. Teachers will continue this professional learning in October and November.
- Teachers continued this professional learning during the virtual November PD days by diving even deeper into the following topics: reframing grading, 3D assessments, modeling in science, talk moves, collaborative inquiry, Gizmos, or student voice and choice within the science classroom. Teachers picked which area they wanted to further their learning with. SSLT will meet again January 8th to discuss the pilots as well as feedback from our professional development days.



CURRICULUM UPDATES

- This year biology has been moved to the ninth-grade district wide. The new curriculum adopted last year is being implemented in biology classrooms across the district. The [New Visions for Public Schools](#) curriculum engages students with phenomenon-based instruction and three-dimensional learning. This type of instruction will allow teachers to move toward the science vision created by science teachers throughout the district last year.
- Chemistry and Physics teachers will be conducting the first pilots of new curricular options starting on November 4th. The second pilot will be during January and early February. They will meet to discuss their findings and determine the best curriculum for the 2025-26 school year.



IMPORTANT DATES

- January 8th SSLT Meeting
- February 5th 9th Grade Bio Meeting

