



8th Grade Earth Science Instruction in the West Shore School District

Earth Science instruction in the West Shore School District is aligned to the PA Core Standards and identified best practices. We utilize a variety of strategies and differentiate our instruction to meet the needs of all learners. Technology and 21st Century Skills are thoughtfully woven into our lessons and units of instruction. This document is meant to offer an overview of important concepts within Earth Science.

Best Practices in 8th Grade Earth Science:

- Emphasis on content and application in accordance with topics in Earth Science.
- Emphasis on mastery of underlying concepts that relate to the processes that shape the Earth's surface and atmosphere.
- Hands-on investigation and analysis of Geologic concepts by guiding students in active and extended laboratory exercises.
- Emphasis on understanding scientific concepts through the use of technology.
- Evaluation that focuses on scientific processes and attitudes through authentic tasks and attention to varied learning styles and needs.

Skills and Concepts:

- Nature of Science
- Space
 - Module G Unit 1- The Universe
 - Module G Unit 2- The Solar System
 - Module G Unit 3- The Earth, Moon, and Sun System
- Dynamic Earth
 - Module E Unit 2- Earth's History
 - Module E Unit 3- Minerals and Rocks
 - Module E Unit 4- The Restless Earth
- Hydrology
 - Module F Unit 1- Water
 - Module F- Unit 2- Oceanography
- Atmosphere and Weather
 - Module F- Unit 3- Earth's Atmosphere
 - Module F- Unit 4- Weather and Climate
- Weather Analysis

Assessments:

WSSD utilizes a variety of assessments to monitor student growth and achievement. Our teachers engage in daily informal formative assessments to make timely decision about whether a student understands the material and concepts being presented. We will utilize several summative assessments, including performance tasks, to determine if a student has mastered grade level skills and standards.

Materials and Resources:

WSSD utilizes a variety of resources to meet all learners' needs.

ScienceFusion Modules

[Think Central](#)