

Mount Prospect School
General PTO Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2016

Presentation by Tom Misiak – District Science & Technology Supervisor

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Entire presentation can be found at: <https://app.oucoursesystems.com/school/webpage/13461>

Titled Dec 2016 Presentation on Elementary Science

Grades 3-5 Updated

Why the Change?

- Next Generation Science Standards
- New topics locked in each grade
- NextGenScience.org
 - Outlines what students are expected to demonstrate
 - Not “know” or “explain”
- Standards adopted 7/2013 in NJ (“SLS” = “NGSS”)
- Expected roll-out to K-5 9/2017
 - Our district started a year early to work out any issues
- Vendor: Knowing Science, a start-up for the sole purpose of these standards

Overview of Grades 3-5

- Science and Social Studies alternate and since materials were delivered late so school year started with Social Studies for two units; then Science was started
- At year end, can assess & make changes/ fine tune
- Grade 3 has 3 units and 4&5 have 4 units
- Each unit will be alternated with Social Studies units, won’t alternate each subject each day
- Fully lab driven with experiments as individuals, or groups or whole class

Proposed K-2

- Adaptations will continue to occur until best fit

Questions from Parents:

1. How are teachers being prepared?
 - a. Meetings
 - b. District half-day training
 - c. Unit by unit, lab by lab with a lot of communication directly with Tom Misiak

2. Standardized Testing?
 - a. NJASK in grades 4 & 8 with PARCC
 - b. Biology test is new this year "BCT"
 - c. Current tests are not adequate so there will be new tests in 2018
 - d. Grades K-5 won't get letter grades on report cards, just need to show proficiency
3. Will these standards get same push back as Common Core?
 - a. No. Common Core expects knowledge of specific things and NGSS as adopted by NJ is about design and experiment – open ended. In addition, NGSS was developed privately and is not federally mandated.
4. What other states follow these standards?
 - a. CA for example and feedback has been great
5. How will higher grades catch up?
 - a. Gaps and missing content is being identified, and gaps will be phased out by 8th grade
 - b. 6th grade is the transition year
6. How will lab work and experiments be represented on report cards?
 - a. Still being looked at as to how to convey
7. Google Classroom is being used to give support to teachers
 - a. YouTube videos
 - b. Bozeman Science – search YouTube
 - c. Support pushed out to parents also