

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome back to school! In this online learning environment, the content and adopted science curriculum that we will learn this year has been adapted from our usual in-person instruction to be better suited for at home learning. Students will still be engaging in the same rigorous standards and expectations. Our course this year will use curriculum from [PEER Physics](#), developed out of CU Boulder and modified this summer for online learning with collaboration from SPS. Each unit begins with an interesting situation, or phenomenon, that students will work to explain using information from a series of evidence-gathering activities throughout the unit.

You can expect to see your student:

- Using Microsoft OneNote to access learning materials and collaborate with peers
- Using Schoology to assess their learning and submit work to their teachers.
- Attending video calls with teachers and peers using Microsoft Teams
- Collaborating with peers in small groups
- Engaging in both whole class live learning and small group sense-making

What will it look like when your student is doing science this year:

- Drawing and explaining models
- Observing and collecting data through at home experiments and videos
- Analyzing and interpreting data
- Discussing and communicating their learning
- Practicing and applying math skills
- Connect science concepts to their real-world experiences

What does my student need to do in order to be successful:

- Show up to online class meetings and participate during both synchronous and small group learning times
- Be willing to collaborate with peers
- Develop a routine for continuing learning outside of scheduled class hours

For students, talking about science can help deepen their learning and understanding. This year we will be learning the physics of energy (Unit 1), forces (Unit 2), and gravity (Unit 3 – if we have time). Here are some questions you can ask to support your students learning about the units:

- What are you trying to figure out?
- What are you being asked to think about?
- What did you talk about in your small group today?
- Did you agree with everything you heard from your group today?