

Grade 6 Launch Unit: Microbiome

Dear Families,

To facilitate remote learning in middle school science this year the SPS Science Department will be integrating our adopted science curriculum, AmplifyScience, with the **Microsoft OneNote and Class Notebook** applications which is provided to all SPS students and staff as part of Microsoft Office365. OneNote provides students with a digital online notebook that includes instructional materials from the district adopted science curriculum. Students will interact with the learning activities in the notebook for both live (synchronous) and independent (asynchronous) learning. Student can access this digital notebook through Schoology. For more information about using OneNote class notebooks in science, please refer to the [Introduction to OneNote for Families handout](#) ([click here for translated versions](#)) here and this [Introduction to OneNote for Families short video](#).

Your student is about to start **a unit called Microbiome** in science class. This unit is part of the Amplify Science program, which is the SPS adopted middle school science curriculum. We hope that the information here can help support you as you support your student with their at-home science learning.

In the Microbiome unit, students take on the role of researchers to figure out what is going wrong with a patient's microbiome using the same types of data professional scientists use. In the process, they examine living things at different scales, from microscopic bacteria to the whole human body, and gather evidence to help them understand how the 100 trillion microorganisms on and in the human body can keep a person healthy.

As students work to find a solution to the patient's problem, they become familiar with the practices of science, including the specific ways that scientists investigate, talk, read, write, argue from evidence, and work with models. These science practices will be important as students study science throughout the year.

In order to support your student, you can help them with understanding directions, writing about their ideas, and reading articles. Students are asked to do some activities with a partner, and you can be your student's partner as they talk over questions and ideas and practice scientific arguments.

In this unit, students are investigating what's happening with Patient 23, and you may wish to ask your student:

- ✓ "What did you figure out in your science lesson today?"
- ✓ "How does that help you understand what's happening with Patient 23?" (***after they complete Lesson 1.4***)

Answering these questions after every lesson can help students understand more deeply and keep them interested in learning more.

I look forward to working with your child this year! Thank you for helping to your student in their science learning!