



Integrated Faith Standards for Academic Curriculum

Science Curriculum

Kindergarten – Grade 8

*Revised 2022

“Education is an important mission, which draws young people to what is good, beautiful, and true.”

Pope Francis

Science is crucial for all students to master; not only those who seek careers in science, engineering, and medicine, but all citizens who live in the 21st century. These standards are created for students who live in a world where scientific understanding is not just an asset, but a necessity.

In studying science, we desire that our students in Catholic Schools will be able to:

- Demonstrate the mental practices of precise, determined, meticulous, and accurate questioning, inquiry, and reasoning of the Scientific Method.
- Learn that science involves exploration and particular procedures and ways of developing and organizing knowledge in an ongoing journey of discovery.
- Respond to the beauty, harmony, proportion, and wholeness existing in Nature.
- Appreciate how scientific hypothesis, investigation, and experimentation relate to other areas of study, especially the interplay of scientific research and theological and philosophical analysis.
- Articulate how scientific theories such as the Big Bang and evolution reflect the glory of the Creator.
- Communicate the significant contributions that the Catholic Church has made to the advancement of science, including the sponsorship of the first universities and such acclaimed scientists as Fr. Gregor Mendel, Fr. Georges Lemaître, Louis Pasteur, Nicholas Copernicus, Blaise Pascal, Galileo Galilei, Luigi Galvani, and Leonardo da Vinci.

The proposed Diocesan Curriculum Standards for Science adapted and reprinted from the *Indiana Academic Science Standards* will guide us in creating a science and engineering curriculum modeled on Design Process and the Scientific Method, enabling our students to approach the world with logic, reason, inquiry, and wonder. “Every scientist, through personal study and research, completes himself and his own humanity. ... Scientific research constitutes the way for the personal encounter with truth, and perhaps the privileged place for the encounter itself with God, the Creator of heaven and earth. Science shines forth in all its value as a good capable of motivating our existence, as a great experience of freedom for truth, as a fundamental work of service. Through research each scientist grows as a human being and helps others to do likewise.” – Pope Saint John Paul II.

Scientific Process Standards

The Nature of Scientific knowledge is scientists' best explanations for the data from many investigations. Ideas about objects in the microscopic world that we cannot directly sense are often understood in terms of concepts developed to understand objects in the macroscopic world that we can see and touch. Student work should align with this process of science and should be guided by those principles. Students should also understand that scientific knowledge is gained from observation of natural phenomena and experimentation by designing and conducting investigations guided by theory and by evaluating and communicating the results of those investigations according to accepted procedures. These concepts should be woven throughout daily work.

- Develop explanations to inquiries based on reproducible data and observations gathered during laboratory investigations.
- Recognize that their explanations must be based both on their data and other known information from investigations of others.
- Clearly communicate their ideas and results of investigations verbally and in written form using tables, graphs, diagrams and photographs.

- Regularly evaluate the work of their peers and in turn have their work evaluated by their peers.
- Apply standard techniques in laboratory investigations to measure physical quantities in appropriate units and convert quantities to other units as necessary.
- Use analogies and models (mathematical and physical) to simplify and represent systems that are difficult to understand or directly experience due to their size, time scale or complexity. Recognize the limitations of analogies and models.
- Focus on the development of explanatory models based on their observations during laboratory investigations.
- Explain that the body of scientific knowledge is organized into major theories, which are derived from and supported by the results of many experiments and allow us to make testable predictions.
- Recognize that new scientific discoveries often lead to a re-evaluation of previously accepted scientific knowledge and of commonly held ideas.
- Describe how scientific discoveries lead to the development of new technologies and conversely how technological advances can lead to scientific discoveries through new experimental methods and equipment.
- Explain how scientific knowledge can be used to guide decisions on environmental and social issues.

Basic Principles Underlying All Standards to be Used for the Planning of Curriculum for the Diocese of Manchester

- A passion for mission should inform every curriculum decision.
- All knowledge reflects God’s Truth, Beauty, and Goodness.
- Curriculum and instruction enable deeper incorporation of the children into the Church, the formation of community within the school, and respect for the uniqueness and dignity of each person as created in the image and likeness of God.
- Education fosters growth in Christian virtue and contributes to development and formation of the whole person for the good of the society of which he/she is a member, and in recognition of their destiny, an eternal life in Christ.
- Each subject is to be examined in the context of the Catholic faith through Scripture and Tradition and is to be illuminated by Gospel values.
- Learning and formation are interconnected, as are the natural and spiritual development of each student.
- Curriculum and instruction seek to promote a synthesis of faith, life, and culture, forming students as disciples of Jesus.
- All curricula must support a commitment to strong and consistent Catholic identity.
- Curriculum will assist the student’s ability to think critically, problem solve, innovate, and lead towards a supernatural vision.

In a Catholic School, Curricular Formation...

1. Involves the integral formation of the whole person, body, mind, and spirit, in light of his or her ultimate end and the good of society.ⁱ
2. Promotes human virtues and the dignity of the human person as created in the image and likeness of God and modeled on the person of Jesus Christ.ⁱⁱ
3. Seeks to know and understand objective reality, which includes transcendent Truth, is knowable by reason and faith, and finds its origin, unity, and end in God.
4. Develops a Catholic worldview and enables a deeper incorporation of the student into the heart of the Catholic Church.ⁱⁱⁱ
5. Encourages a synthesis of faith, life, and culture.^{iv}

Posing Questions for Science and Defining Problems for Engineering

K-8.EP.PQ-1.0 A practice of science is posing and refining questions that lead to descriptions and explanations of how the natural and designed world(s) work, and these questions can be scientifically tested. Engineering questions clarify problems to determine criteria for possible solutions and identify constraints to solve problems about the designed world.

Developing and Using Models and Tools

K-8.EP.MT-1.0 A practice of both science and engineering is to use and construct conceptual models that illustrate ideas and explanations. Models are used to develop questions, predictions, and explanations; analyze and identify flaws in systems; build and revise scientific explanations and proposed engineered systems; and communicate ideas. Measurements and observations are used to revise and improve models and designs. Models include but are not limited to the following: diagrams, drawings, physical replicas, mathematical representations, analogies, and other technological models. Another practice of both science and engineering is to identify and correctly use tools to construct, obtain, and evaluate questions and problems. Utilize appropriate tools while identifying their limitations. Tools include but are not limited to the following: pencil and paper, models, ruler, a protractor, a calculator, laboratory equipment, safety gear, a spreadsheet, experiment data collection software, and other technological tools.

Constructing and Performing Investigations

K-8.EP.CPI-1.0 Scientists and engineers construct and perform investigations in the field or laboratory, working collaboratively and individually. Researching analogous problems in order to gain insight into possible solutions allows them to make conjectures about the form and meaning of the solution. A plan to a solution pathway is developed prior to constructing and performing investigations. Constructing investigations systematically encompasses identified variables and parameters, generating quality data. Scientists and engineers monitor and record progress. After performing, they evaluate to make changes to modify and repeat the investigation if necessary.

Analyzing and Interpreting Data

K-8.EP.AID-1.0 Investigations produce data that must be analyzed in order to derive meaning. Because data patterns and trends are not always obvious, scientists and engineers use a range of tools to identify the significant features in the data. They identify sources of error in the investigations and calculate the degree of certainty in the results. Advances in science and engineering make analysis of proposed solutions more efficient and effective. They analyze their results by continually asking themselves questions; possible questions may be, but are not limited to the following: “Does this make sense?” “Could my results be duplicated?” and/or “Does the design solve the problem with the given constraints?”

Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking

K-8.EP.MCT-1.0 In both science and engineering, mathematics and computation are fundamental tools for representing physical variables and their relationships. They are used for a range of tasks such as constructing simulations; solving equations exactly or approximately; and recognizing, expressing, and applying quantitative relationships. Mathematical and computational approaches enable scientists and engineers to predict the behavior of systems and test the validity of such predictions. Scientists and engineers understand how mathematical ideas interconnect and build on one another to produce a coherent whole.

Constructing Explanations (for Science) and Designing Solutions (for Engineering)

K-8.EP.CEDS-1.0 Scientists and engineers use their results from the investigation in constructing descriptions and explanations, citing the interpretation of data, and connecting the investigation to how the natural and designed world(s) work. They construct or design logical coherent explanations or solutions of phenomena that incorporate their understanding of science and/or engineering or a model that represents it, and are consistent with the available evidence.

Engaging in Argument from Evidence

K-8.EP.AE-1.0 Scientists and engineers use reasoning and argument based on evidence to identify the best explanation for a natural phenomenon or the best solution to a design problem. Scientists and engineers use argumentation, the process by which evidence-based conclusions and solutions are reached, to listen to, compare, and evaluate competing ideas and methods based on merits. Scientists and engineers engage in argumentation when investigating a phenomenon, testing a design solution, resolving questions about measurements, building data models, and using evidence to evaluate claims.

Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information

K-8.EP.OEC-1.0 Scientists and engineers need to be communicating clearly and articulating the ideas and methods they generate. Critiquing and communicating ideas individually and in groups is a critical professional activity. Communicating information and ideas can be done in multiple ways: using tables, diagrams, graphs, models, and equations, as well as orally, in writing, and through extended discussions. Scientists and engineers employ multiple sources to obtain information that is used to evaluate the merit and validity of claims, methods, and designs.

Scientific Topics – General Standards

- K6.S.IF-GS.1.1** Exhibit care and concern at all stages of life for each human person as an image and likeness of God.
- K6.S.IF-GS.1.2** Describe the unity of faith and reason with confidence that there exists no contradiction between the God of nature and the God of faith.
- K6.S.IF-GS.1.3** Value the human body as the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Scientific Topics – Intellectual Standards

- K6.S.IF-IS.2.1** Explain what it means to say that God created the world and all matter out of nothing at a certain point in time; how it manifests His wisdom, glory, and purpose; and how He holds everything in existence according to His plan.
- K6.S.IF-IS.2.2** Describe the relationships, elements, underlying order, harmony, and meaning in God's creation.
- K6.S.IF-IS.2.3** Explain how creation is an outward sign of God's love and goodness and, therefore, is "sacramental" in nature.
- K6.S.IF-IS.2.4** Give examples of the beauty evident in God's creation.
- K6.S.IF-IS.2.5** Explain the processes of conservation, preservation, overconsumption, and stewardship in relation to caring for that which God has given to sustain and delight us.
- K6.S.IF-IS.2.6** Describe God's relationship with man and nature.
- K6.S.IF-IS.2.7** Describe how science and technology should always be at the service of humanity and, ultimately, to God, in harmony with His purposes.
- K6.S.IF-IS.2.8** Explain how science properly limits its focus to how things physically exist and is not designed to answer issues of meaning, the value of things, or the mysteries of the human person.
- K6.S.IF-IS.2.9** Describe how the use of the scientific method to explore and understand nature differs, yet complements, the theological and philosophical questions one asks in order to understand God and His works.
- K6.S.IF-IS.2.10** Analyze the false assumption that science can replace faith.
- K6.S.IF-IS.2.11** List the basic contributions of significant Catholics to science such as Galileo, Copernicus, Mendel, and others.

Scientific Topics – Dispositional Standards

- K6.S.IF-IS.3.1** Display a sense of wonder and delight about the natural universe and its beauty.
- K6.S.IF-IS.3.2** Share concern and care for the environment as a part of God's creation.
- K6.S.IF-IS.3.3** Accept the premise that nature should not be manipulated simply at man's will or only viewed as a thing to be used, but that man must cooperate with God's plan for himself and for nature.
- K6.S.IF-IS.3.4** Accept that scientific knowledge is a call to serve and not simply a means to gain power, material prosperity, or success.

Physical Science

- K.SC.PS-1.0** Plan and conduct an investigation using all senses to describe and classify different kinds of objects by their composition and physical properties. Explain these choices to others and generate questions about the objects.
- K.SC.PS-2.0** Identify and explain possible uses for an object based on its properties and compare these uses with other students' ideas.
- K.SC.PS-3.0** Plan and conduct an investigation to compare the effects of different strengths or different directions of pushes and pulls on the motion of an object.
- K.SC.PS-4.0** Analyze data to determine if a design solution works as intended to change the speed or direction of an object with a push or a pull.

Earth and Space Science

- K.SC.ESS-1.0** Use observations of the sun, moon, and planets to describe patterns that can be predicted.
- K.SC.ESS-2.0** Observe and compare properties of sand, silt, clay, and organic matter.
- K.SC.ESS-3.0** Observe a variety of biomes and describe the recognizable living and nonliving items.
- K.SC.ESS-4.0** Construct an argument supported by evidence for how plants and animals (including humans) can change the environment.
- K.SC.ESS-5.0** Explains how humans have a responsibility as Stewards of the Earth.

Life Science

- K.SC.LS-1.0** Develop representations to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.
- K.SC.LS-2.0** Develop a model representing how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.
- K.SC.LS-3.0** Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats and how they meet their basic needs for food, water, and shelter.
- K.SC.LS-4.0** Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants and animals (including humans) and the places they live.

Engineering

- K.SC.EN-1.0** Pose questions, make observations, and obtain information about a situation people want to change. Use this data to define a simple problem that can be solved through the construction of an improved object or tool.
- K.SC.EN-2.0** Develop a simple sketch, drawing, or physical model to illustrate and investigate how the shape of an object helps it function.
- K.SC.EN-3.0** Analyze data from the investigation of two objects constructed to solve the same problem to compare the strengths and weaknesses of how each performs.