

Middle School Science Information and Resources

For Your Information

- **Core experiences, based on TEKS, provide common hands-on experiences for all middle school children across the district.**
- *Making Healthy Choices*, the district's wellness and sexuality curriculum, is included in middle school science.
- Science Fair participation is required for all AISD 7th and 8th graders. It is optional, however, for AISD 6th graders.
- Participation in "Invent Austin" (a science invention fair), is required for AISD 6th graders. It is optional, however, for AISD 7th and 8th graders.
- **Starting in 2003, state law will require a passing score on the science TAKS test, which includes chemistry, physics, and biology, to graduate from high school.**

Questions Parents Can Ask Their Children

- What are the criteria by which your work is graded?
- How is your science work evaluated? How do you improve your work?
- What did you discuss in class today?
- Which of the TEKS did you cover today in class?
- What are your expectations for your science class?
- What safety precautions do you take when doing a lab?
- What hands-on activities are you doing in science class?
- How do you use computers and other technology in science class?
- What are you doing in science class that relates to real-life applications?

Questions Students Can Ask Their Teachers

- What do I need to do to successfully complete this project or activity?
- How can I use the Internet to do scientific research?
- What is an effective way to organize my daily work, portfolio, labs, or interactive notebooks?
- How does this topic affect everyday living?
- How will learning this topic impact my life? Why is important to learn this?

Middle School Science Information and Resources

Encourage your child to read scientific literature, including biographies of scientists, scientific achievements, and scientific magazines.

Periodicals

Any newspaper
National Geographic
World
Texas Parks and Wildlife
Popular Science
Discover
Science News
Science World
Science Scope
National Wildlife
Federation
Scientific American

Bilingual Periodicals

Ahora
El Sol
Milenio

Encourage your child to locate scientific information using a variety of sources, including the Internet, television, newspapers, magazines, and reference materials.

Television Programs

Nature
A&E
Biography
Discovery Channel
Discovery Health Channel
National Geographic
Wild America
NOVA
Scientific American
Frontiers
Newton's Apple
Bill Nye, The Science Guy
Mr. Wild
The History Channel
Zoom

Websites

Encourage your child to visit science-related websites on the Internet.

www.scholastic.com (Scholastic, Inc.)
www.discovery.school.com (Discovery)
www.si.com (Smithsonian encyclopedia)
www.ci.austin.tx.us/library (Austin Public Library online catalog-use for research)
www.whyfiles.com (Well-researched, educational descriptions of the actual science behind current news stories. Supported by University of Wisconsin & National Institute for Science Education of NSF.)
www.kidscience.about.com (Ask experts tough questions; experiments, projects, & games.)
www.syvum.com/squizzes/science (Wonderful study aid for children.)
www.atomsandants.com (Science and nature learning site)
www.billnye.com (Nye Labs)
www.findoutwhy.com (Find Out Why)
www.explorescience.com/activities (real-time correlations between scientific theories and applications)
www.historyoftheuniverse.com (History of the Universe)
www.nsf.gov/home/menus/k12.htm (National Science Foundation)
www.olog.amnh.org
www.sciencemadesimple.com (Science Made Simple)
www.exploratorium.com (The Exploratorium Museum, S.F., CA)
www.tryscience.org (Try Science)
www.nationalgeographic.org (National Geographic)
www.pbs.org (PBS)
www.wildbasin.org (Wild Basin)
www.maps.com (maps)
www.stardate.utexas.edu (UT Star Date)
www.nimidi.amnh.org/burroughs/jba.html (122 John Burroughs Nature Books for Young Readers; 1988- 1999).
www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/fosrec/index/html (Learning from Fossil Records)
www.usgs.gov/education/learnweb/MA/index.html (U.S. Geological Survey: Map Adventures)

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www.comet.ucar.edu/dstreme

(American Meteorological
Society (AMS) Weather
Maps)

www.spaceflight.nasa.gov

(NASA Human
Spaceflight)

www.fortworthmuseum.org

(Fort Worth Museum)

www.nwf.org

(National Wildlife
Foundation)

www.abc.net.au/oceans/

[alive.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/oceans/alive.htm) (Oceans
Alive)

www.enviroscapes.com

(Enviroscape)

[www.colorado.edu/physic](http://www.colorado.edu/physics/)

[s/2000](http://www.colorado.edu/physics/2000) (Physics 2000)