

Dear Parent,

Starting in the fall of 2017, science instruction at Paul Revere will begin to move into a hands-on experiential approach. The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) have been adopted by the State of California. The NGSS promotes a new way of learning science that allows students to actively do and experience science in a deep and meaningful way.

This new approach will focus on shifting science instruction away from textbook and lecture and towards teaching students to use scientific knowledge and engineering practices to conduct investigations and solve problems.

The standards accomplish this by integrating three dimensions of learning that include science disciplinary core ideas (the content – such as biology), major practices (how science is conducted in the real world), and crosscutting concepts (science ideas that permeate all of the sciences). New assessments will likely be more writing-oriented, activity-oriented and computer-based. As students are transitioned to this new approach, parents are encouraged to support their children by seeking opportunities to explore science at home and in the community.

For more information about the standards, check out NSTA Parent Question and answer website: <http://ngss.nsta.org/parent-q-and-a.aspx>

With sincere and highest regards,

Mr. Cos,
7th grade science teacher
Paul Revere Middle School