

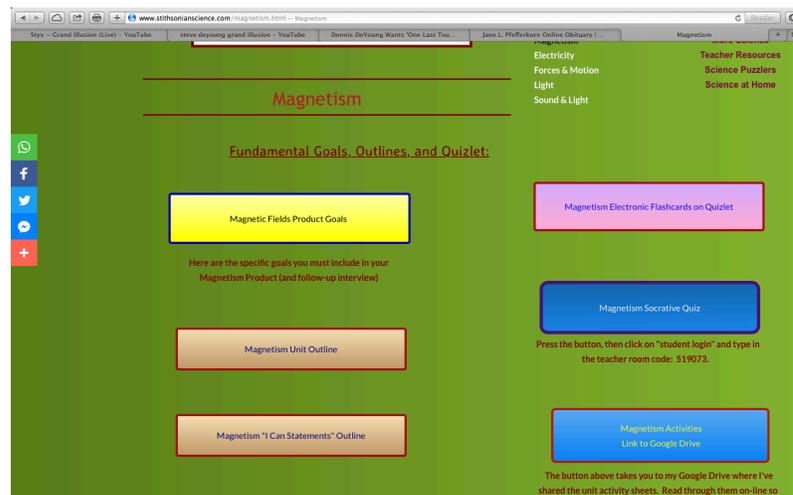
Magnetism: At this time of progress reports we're in the middle of interviewing students on their magnetism products. Each student was required to make a simple magnetic toy and then use it to demonstrate the existence of magnetic fields. These scores will be on Aspen in a couple weeks. At this time, the only academic scores on Aspen are from our Properties of Energy unit.

Student: I noticed my grade has dropped on Aspen. I was wondering how I can raise it.

On one hand it's good students want to improve. On the other hand, at this point in the year there should be no question what students need to do to improve their grades—redo any interviews or products that they feel were lacking.

Learner-Paced Science Class:

I'm pleased with how well the majority of students are working in class. They have taken well to the learner-paced system. Although students can move at their own pace, there is a maximum amount of time we can devote to each unit. For that reason, I have been in touch with a number of parents whose learners need more time than others to work through activities. The activity sheets can be accessed at home. Simply go to my website (stithsonianscience.com), and click on the proper unit page. Scroll a little ways down, and on the right is a button that links to my Google Drive. Students should log onto their Londonderry Google account to gain access to these sheets. (See below.)



Learners are to record each activity in their science notebook. (Ask them for the proper format.) Some activities require materials not found at home; others do not. For the former activities, students can read the activity sheets, set up their notebooks, copy data tables, and make predictions. This saves all kinds of time in class. For the latter activities, students can complete them entirely at home. Then they can get interviewed back at school.

Additionally, if students are going to be out for any reason, there is no need to email asking me to send homework. These activities are what they need to complete!

Bonus Assignments and Socrative Quizzes:

A disturbing trend has been taking place regarding completion of Bonus Assignments and taking Socrative Quizzes: Numbers keep dropping.

Bonus Assignments typically have little to do with a given unit's content, but do provide students with valuable experience engineering and problem solving. Socrative Quizzes absolutely relate to a unit's content. (Look back to the Magnetism page screen shot. The button to the Socrative Quiz is right above the Google Drive link.)

Family Science:

Makin' A Splash, in early November, was the first Family Science project of year. We had an excellent turnout on this! Students receive no extrinsic credit for these optional projects. Like Bonus Assignments, Family Science projects give learners what they truly need—practice **doing** science and engineering.

Groovy Racers are due on Friday, January 26 (it was assigned before Christmas). I've seen only one racer that can make it down track so far. I hope we see a lot of projects, but am concerned Family Science is going the way of Bonus Assignments and Socrative Quizzes.

Happy 2018. Should you have any questions, or would like to observe a class, please contact me at dstiith@londonderry.org