

Parent Conferences:

It was good to meet so many of you during virtual parent conferences. Even though there are no more conference days set aside this year, please let me know if you ever have questions or concerns.

Ecology Part II:

Here were the big ideas for this half of the unit:

- V. Natural Selection & Adaptations
- VI. Matter and Energy Through Ecosystems
 - A. Photosynthesis
 - B. Food chains
 - C. Food webs
 - D. Energy flow
 - E. Matter movement

Students' New England Organism Google Slides product for Ecology II will be due at 4:00 on Monday, 12/14 for period 3A and Tuesday, 12/15 for 3B. (Students have been adding to their products throughout the unit, so it is basically completed week to week.) I will begin interviews of these goals on Monday for students who turn their products in early.

Note: Just like last time, during the two or three days it takes to complete individual interviews, most students will not report to science class. I will list an interview schedule in the Google Classroom Stream. It is imperative that students attend interviews on time.

While waiting for interviews, students are to be working on an engaging activity called **Aurora Seed Design Challenge**. *Parents, I would appreciate it if you could check in with students during the week and look at their work. Last time, many students failed to complete the activity that was in lieu of attending class (Among the Wild Chimpanzees).* No materials need to be purchased for this--common household and recycled items are all that is needed. **Mid-week most students will be required to submit a photo of their seeds.**

Making Sense of Aspen--Moving to 2nd Trimester:

Like many units, scores from Ecology will be added during different trimesters. You want to see all tasks in a given standard at once. Here's what to do:

Once in Aspen, go to **Science**, and then click on "**Assignments**" (the first science screen doesn't give you useful information). Near the upper right are two drop-down menus. One is for **trimester**. Keep trimesters on "**All**". The other drop-down is for **standard**. Self Direction (SD) is the work habits (non-academic) standard. The academic standards, in the order we are working on them, are Science Process Skills, Organisms & Environment, Properties of Matter, Properties of Energy, Earth-Moon-Sun Interrelationships, Forces and Motion.

SD (Self Direction):

ECO SD Week 5, 6, 7...: These weekly scores describe how well students did their jobs in class (followed directions, completed assignments, came to class on time with their science materials, remained on task, participated in discussions) during Part II of our Ecology unit. These SD scores will be posted each week all year.

ECO Products on time: (See above.)

ECO II Socratic Assessment on time: (This is **due Friday, December 18**, so will be on Aspen after that.) Each unit the Socratic Assessment serves as one summative assessment for the unit. Assessments are activated near the end of the unit, and students have a week to answer the 10-questions. This SD score indicates whether your child completed it on time, and also if they signed in properly.

OE (The code in Aspen for Ecology is OE--Organisms and Environment.):

There are seven **OE** scores in Aspen:

Ecology II Product and Interview Goal 1: Natural Selection & Adaptations

Ecology II Product and Interview Goal 2: Photosynthesis

Ecology III Product and Interview Goal 3: Food Chains and Food Webs

Ecology II Socratic Assessment: [See Socratic Assessment info above under SD.]

All seven Ecology tasks can be redone if students are not satisfied with their initial scores. Most days during PM Get Set time I have time available.

After we return in January we have a couple final weeks studying Ecology topics before moving on to Astronomy.

Have a good holiday season--stay safe!

Sincerely,

Doug Stith

As always, please do not hesitate to email me if you have any questions.
(dstith@londonderry.org).