

Dear Parents,

We are currently learning about organisms and environment in 3rd grade science. The students will demonstrate an understanding of the structures and functions of living organisms and their interdependence on each other and their environment.

Student Expectations

- observe and describe the physical characteristics of environments, and how they support populations and communities within an ecosystem; describe environmental changes, such as floods and droughts where some organisms thrive and others perish or move to new locations
- identify and describe the flow of energy in a food chain and predict how changes in a food chain affect the ecosystem, such as removal of frogs from a pond or bees from a field.
- explore how structures and functions of plants and animals allow these organisms to survive in a particular environment

Key Concepts

- Environments have specific physical characteristics that provide food, water, air, and protection to populations and communities in an ecosystem.
- Changes to an environment can affect whether certain organisms can survive in that ecosystem.
- Environmental changes such as floods, droughts, or fires will cause some organisms to perish or move while permitting other organisms to thrive.
- Energy that moves through a food chain originally comes from the Sun. Plants get their energy from the Sun, and animals get their energy from plants and other organisms.
- Removal of an organism from a food chain can affect other organisms.
- The structures of plants and animals are adapted to particular environments.

Helpful websites and STEMscopes login information can be found on the Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD website on the [Curriculum and Instruction Science page](#).

Happy Investigating!
The 3rd Grade Science Team