Grade 3 Science Pacing Guide in Detail by SOLs

VDOE Grade 3 Science Framework

*Ongoing throughout the year

3.1 The student will demonstrate an understanding of scientific and engineering practices by asking questions and defining problems; planning and carrying out investigations; interpreting, analyzing, and evaluating data; constructing and critiquing conclusions and explanations; developing and using models; obtaining, evaluation, and communicating information.

First Nine-Weeks

Living Systems & Processes

- **3.4** The student will investigate and understand that adaptations allow organisms to satisfy life needs and respond to the environment. Key ideas include
 - a) populations may adapt over time;
 - b) adaptations may be behavioral or physical;
 - fossils provide evidence about the types of organisms that lived long ago as well as the nature of their environments.
- **3.5** The student will investigate and understand that aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems support a diversity of organisms. Key ideas include
 - ecosystems are made of living and nonliving components of the environment; and
 - b) relationships exist among organisms in an ecosystem.

Second Nine-Weeks

Force, Motion, and Energy

- **3.2** The student will investigate and understand that the direction and size of force affects the motion of an object. Key ideas include
 - a) multiple forces may act on an object;
 - the net force on an object determines how an object moves;
 - c) simply machines increase or change the direction of a force; and
 - d) simple and compound machines have many applications.
- **3.3** The student will investigate and understand how materials interact with water. Key ideas include
 - a) solids and liquids mix with water in different ways; and
 - b) many solids dissolve more easily in hot water than in cold water.

Third Nine-Weeks

Earth and Space Systems

- **3.6** The student will investigate and understand that soil is important in ecosystems. Key ideas include
 - a) soil, with its different components, is important to organisms; and
 - soil provides support and nutrients necessary for plant growth.
- **3.7** The student will investigate and understand that there is a water cycle and water is important to life on Earth. Key ideas include
 - a) there are many reservoirs of water on Earth;
 - b) the energy from the sun drives the water cycle;
 - c) the water cycle involves specific processes.

Fourth Nine-Weeks

Earth Resources

- **3.8** The student will investigate and understand that natural events and humans influence ecosystems. Key ideas include
 - a) human activity affects the quality air, water, and habitats;
 - b) water is limited and needs to be conserved;
 - c) fire, flood, disease, and erosion affect ecosystems; and
 - d) soil is a natural resource and should be conserved.