FOSS at Home and in the Community: Grades 6-8

Our school uses FOSS Science as part of our curriculum. This is a standards-aligned, research-based science program used with great success across the country. FOSS is developed at the University of California, at Berkeley with over 25 years experience in how K-8 students learn best.

At the heart of this award-winning program, students do science and engineering regularly, they record their observations in science notebooks, integrate technology resources appropriately to support and enhance the hands-on explorations, and engage in assessments that help students determine what they know and what they need support with.

Students investigate scientific phenomena using science notebooks to record their thinking, visit the schoolyard regularly to connect the concepts learned in the classroom to the out-of-doors, use science and engineering to support students in their language development, and read articles after the hands-on exploration to enhance and extend the learning experience.

If you'd like an overview of what your child is likely to study at their grade level and in future grade levels, click here: FOSS courses. Once there, if you click on any title you will see a brief overview of that course.

FOSSweb.com is used regularly in the classroom, but you may like access to some of the resources to better support your child at home. Log in using your child's account.

Username: _____ Password: _____

Here you will find some information that may be nice to extend into your home. You will find:

- Access to course resources, including
  - interactive online activities and videos that help reinforce the classroom lessons
  - student notebook sheets and other student resources
- A Science and Engineering Career Database, with bios about diverse scientists and engineers of all genders

Most of the info on FOSSweb is for teachers and students but you may find it interesting to watch a video about the program here. You may also have questions answered in the FAQs section of the For Families page.

Each FOSS course is designed to be taught every day in science class. Shorter courses will take 4-6 weeks, and longer courses will take approximately 10-14 weeks of study. Our science lessons include active, hands-on components, and sessions for online activities, readings, and assessment. Engineering is integrated throughout this science program.

In addition to learning the facts of science and engineering, FOSS helps students learn how to think like a scientist, to problem solve, to work together in a team, to be responsible for their own learning, and most importantly, to get excited about school and learning. FOSS science lessons engage students' natural curiosity to get even the most reluctant learners excited about learning.