

LETTER FOR FOSS MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES

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Hello Students, Teachers, and Families,

To facilitate science teaching and learning during school closures, the FOSS team has provided additional Home/School Connections on the FOSS website <https://www.fossweb.com>. Students and families gain access to resources on FOSSweb through the class pages set up by the teacher. The teachers can leave notes on the class pages for students. Students can read those notes with assignment instructions from the teacher when they sign in to FOSSweb. Note that teachers may, instead, send FOSSweb assignments to students through other established parent communication apps or emails.

The new Home/School Connections for each course are active investigations that can be conducted at home (inside or outdoors), online readings, or online multimedia experiences including research. Most of these activities are part of the existing course that the students are learning, now formatted for students to access at home.

The teacher will decide which of the suggested activities are appropriate for students based on the classroom science experiences students have had through the year. Please refer to the teacher's communications home for specific expectations for assignments. The teacher may assign *FOSS Science Resources* readings, videos, and multimedia from investigations in the module or course.

For Students and Families: To sign in to FOSSweb, use the student user name and password provided by your teacher. Here's a short video to get you started on FOSSweb.

For Student Sign in Video: <https://youtu.be/Fcfjbt7Li2k>

For FOSSweb help: <https://www.fossweb.com/student-parent-help>

Preview the **Course Summary** from the Student Page. The **Module Overview** is available to download as a PDF. The first few pages of the Overview will help to set the context for the Home/School Connections.

For Teachers: For help in setting up and using Class Pages, use the Walk-through Videos on FOSSweb: <https://www.fossweb.com/fossweb-walkthrough-videos>

Visit the Home/School Connection for each module or course you teach, select the specific assignments that will be most relevant to your students at this point in instruction. Communicate with families about which content you are assigning through the Class Pages Notes on FOSSweb or through any other established parent communication channel your school has in place.

Tech support on FOSSweb: <https://www.fossweb.com/contact-us#jotform>

Together we will continue to make progress in science teaching and learning during school closures. Now, more than ever, we appreciate the role that science plays in our lives, and how important it is for citizens of all ages to understand and act based on scientific evidence

Sincerely, The FOSS Team at the Lawrence Hall of Science

FOSS Gravity and Kinetic Energy, Home/School Connections, Families version COVID-19 School Closure Instructional Opportunities—March 18, 2020

NOTE: For all online research projects, we suggest that students use our [Internet Disclaimer](#) to help guide their independent evaluation of digital sources.

Illustrate Different Gravitational Force

Students can write a story or draw a cartoon to illustrate the fact that gravity on other bodies in the solar system or elsewhere in the universe is different from Earth gravity.

Calculate Weight on Other Planets

Students can use a [NASA program](#) to calculate what they would weigh on other planets.

Write About Newton’s Laws

Students can write a story or draw a cartoon that exemplifies one or more of Newton’s laws. Make one of the characters in the story explain the law in some way. Students could also use their phone to video themselves reading the story and showing their cartoons or drawings as if they were doing a story time reading to a group of students.

Research self-driving cars

Students can research the rapid advancements in development of autonomous cars. The computer programs that provide safety features on these cars make rapid decisions and react quickly. Students can research features that are in development and the engineering required to make them possible.

Research Careers

Students can research science and engineering careers related to the content in the course, using the Science and Engineering Careers Database on FOSSweb. Use the “Science and Engineering Careers Database” link from the Digital Only Resources on FOSSweb. Students can pick a scientist or career from Engineering, Technology, or Physical Science and then complete a report on the person or career. Students with access to a smartphone could video themselves reporting as if it were a news segment.

Photo challenges

Students can take photos to answer one of the challenges below and create their own website, social media collection, or share the files with their teacher/classmates.

- Motion Photo Challenge
Motion is change of position. Take a picture of motion.
- Speed Photo Challenge
Speed is the rate of change of position.
Take a picture of high-speed and low-speed motion.

- Picture Gravity! Photo Challenge

Gravity is a force that keeps us grounded. But how do we know it's there?

Take a picture that shows evidence of gravity.