



Grades 1-3 Science Letter

Summer 2021

Dear GSB Families,

Welcome to the Lower School Science Program. I look forward to a year full of new and exciting science and engineering explorations with your child. The world is our classroom as we will spend time observing and scientifically investigating the natural world by exploring the natural resources of our beautiful 208-acre campus—including gardens, ponds, streams, and a working farm. In anticipation of our time spent outdoors, here are some considerations:

Safety and Supervision: Students will always be supervised by two faculty members, the science teacher and one additional teacher. It is required that all science teachers carry a portable first-aid kit and cell phone whenever outdoors. Science teachers have received epi-pen, first-aid and CPR training. We are up to date with student allergies and security protocols on campus. Students are NOT ALLOWED on any part of the property without supervision.

Sun: It is a good idea for students to use sunscreen or wear long sleeves. Shady places are provided around the campus, and students are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle with them. If you choose, you may send pump spray or cream sunscreen with your child (please do NOT send aerosol spray). Students may also wear a GSB hat or cap or one *without words on it*.

Mud and Water: Students will interact with water in the Peapack and Gladstone Brook, the Home Winds Pond, the garden, and mud on the farm. On any given day, the grass may also be wet, and the ground can be muddy. For this reason, students are required to bring ***comfortable and tall*** waterproof boots (knee high if possible), extra tall crew or hiking socks (that should protect the legs the entire height of the boots), and have an extra set of clothes in their classroom (in case of extra wet or messy exploration days). Please try to size boots a little big in the fall so that boots will fit for the year. We are walking anywhere from a ½ mile to 1 mile during our outdoor explorations back and forth to Home Winds. An extra set of tall, cushioned socks will help boots fit better, insulate in the winter, and protect your child from blisters and sore feet.

Insects/Plant Irritants: As the trail and fields are natural spaces, we will encounter insects and plants. Students will be taught the best ways to behave around different types of insects, poison ivy, and plant irritants with thorns, fine hairs, and secretions. We wash hands after all science activities. We always recommend daily tick checks following any outdoor activity. If you choose, you may send a pump spray insect repellent of your choice with your child.

Animal Interactions: The Farm Educator MUST be present when farm animals are handled in any way. Anyone planning to interact with animals MUST wash their hands BEFORE and AFTER. Students will be instructed to use soft, quiet voices and slow movements around animals. Natural artifacts such as rocks, leaves, sticks, bones, and living organisms (plants and animals) will be carefully handled both hygienically and ethically.

Weather: Since outdoor explorations may take place in all types of weather, rain, snow, or shine, it is recommended that students have appropriate outerwear for the season and the weather. It is helpful to have a windbreaker or fleece jacket at school.

For any questions, please contact Lower School Science Teacher, Lynn Prosen, at lprosen@gsbschool.org. Please reach out if you are unable to acquire waterproof boots, fleece, or extra clothing for our outdoor explorations.

I am looking forward to a fabulous school year of exploration and discovery!

Sincerely,

Lynn Prosen

Lower School Science