



STANHOPE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
VALLEY ROAD SCHOOL

www.stanhopeschools.org

This curriculum has been developed with New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards as a basis for content, structure, and learning targets and rationale;

“Scientific literacy assumes an increasingly important role in the context of globalization. The rapid pace of technological advances, access to an unprecedented wealth of information, and the pervasive impact of science and technology on day-to-day living require a depth of understanding that can be enhanced through quality science education. In the 21st century, science education focuses on the practices of science that lead to a greater understanding of the growing body of scientific knowledge that is required of citizens in an ever-changing world.” <https://www13.state.nj.us/NJCCCS/ContentAreaView/Science.aspx>

The key components of our curriculum template provide a structure to incorporate the following frameworks required by the State:

1. 21st Century Themes- Creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication are at the core of 21st century skills. These transferrable skills are woven into interdisciplinary subjects such as global awareness, financial literacy, civic literacy, and health literacy.
2. Essential questions and big ideas-These are components of understanding by design that foster inquiry and highlight the relevance of the content. They provide the purpose for learning, have lasting value, and transfer across content areas.
3. Differentiation- All students focus on essential skills and content with different levels of complexity. Formative assessments are used to determine the readiness levels of the students and learning is structured to ensure that students achieve the learning targets.
4. Interdisciplinary opportunities- The units are designed to make connections across traditional curricular boundaries with meaningful connections, thereby creating relevance and high interest activities for students.
5. Technology integration- The technology integration matrix tracks learning experiences that are active, collaborative, constructive, and authentic. It will allow teachers to reflect on their current level of technology integration with the goal of transformative learning through technology.