Welcome to STEMscopes!

Dear Parents,

We have recently chosen STEMscopes, an online science curriculum from Accelerate Learning, as our primary instructional resource for teaching science in grade 5.

Why STEMscopes?

STEMscopes is built on an instructional philosophy that centers on students learning the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS) through hands-on exploration and inquiry. Each lesson includes a series of investigations and activities to bring science to life for our students so that they can "learn by doing" and fully engage in the scientific process.

In inquiry-based instruction, students form a deeper understanding of each learning objective as the teacher guides them through their discovery experience.

Who developed STEMscopes?

STEMscopes was developed in partnership with Rice University. The program has been utilized since 2007 and is used by schools and school districts across the country. STEMscopes lessons are designed by teams of talented, experienced classroom teachers.

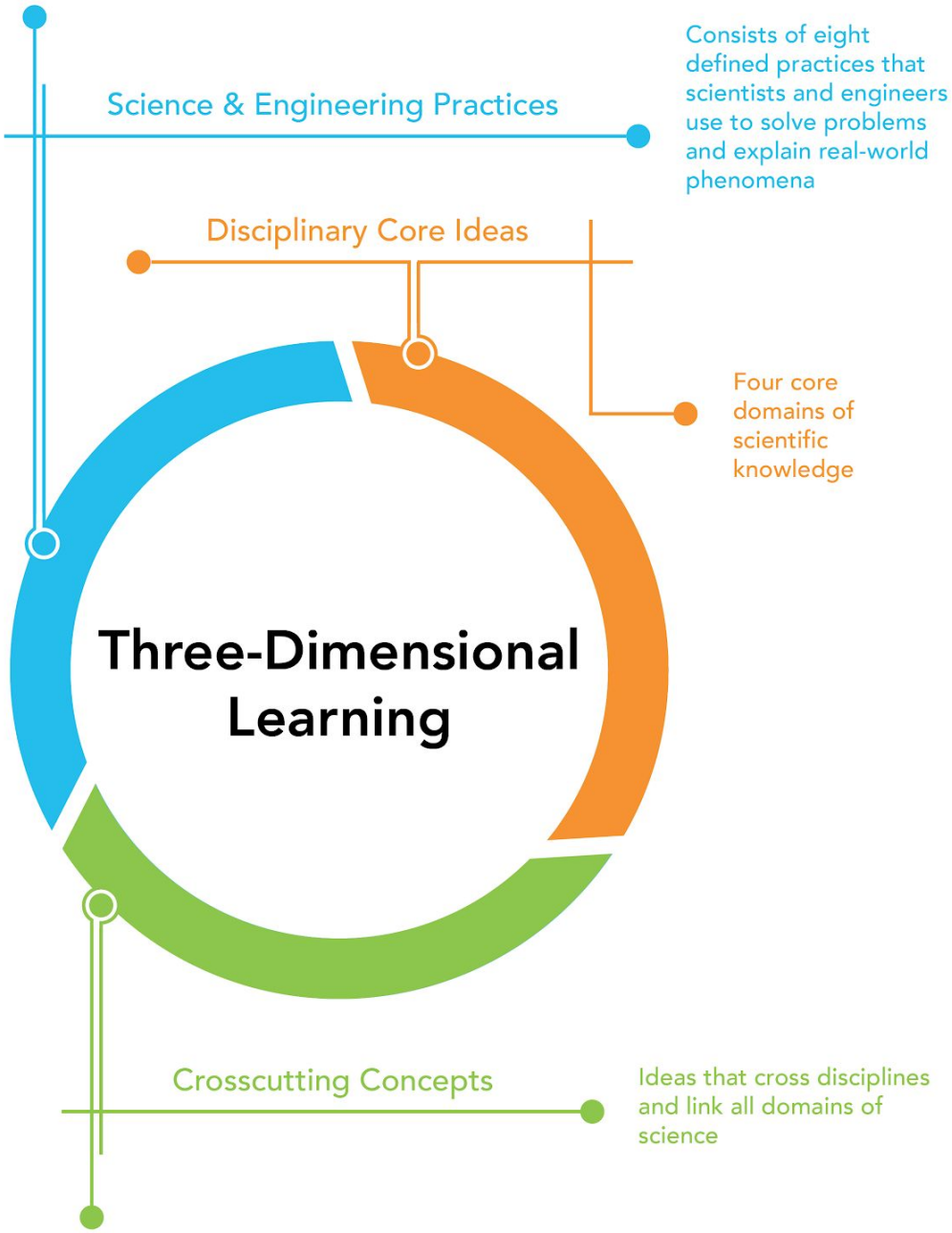
What are the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS)?

The students of today must be prepared to compete with their peers on a global scale. The CA NGSS is a framework of Kindergarten–12th grade learning objectives that were carefully selected as being those most important to ensure the success of American students in the fields of professional science, technology, engineering, and math. The CA NGSS were designed by a collaborative team of professional scientists and experts in education and business. The CA NGSS are rich in both content and practice and arranged in a logical manner to help students build a clear and coherent foundation of science knowledge and skills. The CA NGSS are the driving objectives at the core of the STEMscopes curriculum.

A high-quality education in science, technology, engineering, and math is essential to a student's success in our modern, technology-driven world.

A 3D Approach

The CA NGSS are designed to help students build a cohesive understanding of STEM concepts. Students learn to see the connections between all concepts and content areas. In the CA NGSS, three "dimensions" of learning are combined in order to create a more powerful learning experience.



What if my child needs extra help?

Intervention activities are included in every teacher's STEMscopes toolkit. These pieces include extended practice activities, modified reading passages, and modified math connections.

What if my child needs a bigger challenge?

Acceleration activities are provided for students who excel and need a bigger challenge to meet their full potential.

STEMscopes resources are designed to make it easy for teachers to meet the needs of all students because every student deserves to receive all the instruction they need to meet their full potential.

How can STEMscopes help me support my child's learning?

Each student will receive login credentials to access the program from home. Certain features will be available to browse at home. These always-available resources include a video glossary to help students understand their vocabulary terms and a reference resource called *STEMscopedia*. Each STEMscopedia reading passage includes a hands-on activity and a "Connecting with Your Child" piece to help you enrich your child's learning with fun, age-appropriate activities you can do with your child at home.

We are eager to implement this resource and encourage your involvement. The STEMscopes team is receptive to and values your feedback. If you have any questions, please contact _____ or your student's teacher.