

NEW SCIENCE LAB ENRICHES THE SUMMIT'S SCIENCE PROGRAM

Children are fascinated by the wonders of scientific discovery, and capturing a young child's curiosity and enthusiasm about dinosaurs, astronomy, or volcanoes is every teacher's dream.

At The Summit, teachers believe that children should be exposed to the exciting fields of science at an early age through fun and engaging activities and experiments that are accompanied by age-appropriate information.

A life-sized skeleton, a model of the digestive system, and child-sized microscopes—these are just a few of the things students in the first through fourth grades at The Summit Lower School are excited to find in their new Science Lab.

Before the new lab, teachers had to teach science in their own individual classrooms. "Now, the lab gives us a central location for science," said third grade teacher, Stacy Remke. "We can leave the displays out for all grade levels to see and use. Having a room that can be set up as a lab all day saves time and allows teachers to offer students even more instruction. Very few schools have a separate lab like this for this grade level."

The Science Lab is a resource for all the teachers with multiple cross-curriculum opportunities. It encourages students with hands on activities and puts science right at their finger tips. More materials and more work area offers children the space they need to explore the human brain model or to study the constellations and the

planets, up close and personal.

For the students, the Science Lab is a magical place full of wonder and mystery. The natural light, ample sinks, square lab tables (that are just the right height), computers for research and internet projection, and a carpeted reading area are designed specifically for younger children.

Ms. Remke's class is currently working on a weather unit. "We talk about the weather map using the movable pieces on the display board," Remke explained. "We're also discussing the water cycle and how it helps produce weather, and we are studying different forecasting instruments."

Growing plants and other living displays help teach children the responsibility of caring for living projects. Teachers emphasize the full experience of experiments, from set up to clean up. They concentrate on teaching the scientific method, so that by the third grade, students are expected to do more written observations and journaling.

The Summit Lower School participates in the Science Olympiad Contest. This nation-wide test is administered in the spring. Last year, all Summit students participated in the test and for each grade level, the top ten scores became a team score. The Summit's second grade team score was ranked in the top 10% of all other second grade team scores across the nation. The third grade team score was in the top 30% of all third and fourth



grade team scores.

Science is so important in our world today. It is essential for young students to develop the concepts, skills, and building blocks for studying science at the middle and high school level.

The addition of this new, interactive lab will enrich The Summit's strong science program and leverage the students' natural fascination with nature and science.