

NEW ALBANY ELEMENTARY

LIVING WITH SCIENCE



Our students gain the skills they need to succeed in the Mississippi Science tests

“When I saw Living with Science I loved it, especially the life science module with the body model, that’s the type of thing that really helps the students get excited by science.”

Kristen Richey

According to New Albany Elementary School Principal, Mr. Chuck Poer, a new computer-based Science program will really help their students gain the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in the new Mississippi curriculum science tests.

“The latest version of the state test includes a mandatory test in science at fourth grade. Like the majority of schools in the state, we have not been teaching a lot of science in the elementary grades. The Living with Science program will give us a ‘Science Concepts Lab’ where the students will get the hands-on work they need to get a lab grade.

Improving literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking

All of our courses have spiralled curriculums, and this new lab fits very well with that. We know our students will have lots of ‘ah-ha’ moments when they meet a concept they have already covered in another lesson.

It will also help them develop their problem-solving skills and their comprehension and reading skills. The lab activities will also help them develop their critical thinking skills. This will be really important because the new state assessment in science will have fewer questions based on recall and many more that require critical thinking.”

The new science lab has a very different appearance to it. Brightly colored workstations and a cosmos theme make it an exciting and motivating place for the students to discover the wonders of science. The students follow the curriculum that is delivered by computer. Each workstation covers a different area of science; physical science, life science, earth science, and science investigations.

Managing the program

Throughout all the activities, the students’ helper is Lenia, a small green alien, who helps them with their science experiments. A special management system tracks each student as they complete the learning activities. The teacher can see from their computer exactly how each child is doing as they work.



“The lab activities will also help them develop their critical thinking skills. This will be really important because the new state assessment in science will have fewer questions based on recall and many more that require critical thinking.”

Chuck Poer

Integrated tests and assessments are used to ensure that each student is on target to achieve success in the MCT science tests. When they are introduced in the 2006/2007 school year.

To find out more about the new science program we spoke with Kristen Richey;

“This is the first year that we have implemented a full science program and I used to teach science at our local high school. I knew it would be important to buy resources that would make it easier for our teachers to deliver good science lessons.

A system that helps with NCLB

When I saw Living with Science I loved it, especially the life science module with the body model, that’s the type of thing that really helps the students get excited by science.

Without a resource like this it would be very hard for us to deliver science, especially as we haven’t been teaching it for so long. Now with the changes to the MCT and with the requirements of ‘No Child Left Behind’ we have to teach it and teach it well.

If schools don’t invest in a resource like this, I think it will be almost impossible to deliver an effective science program that will enable students to pass the science tests.”