GRADE 3 SCIENCE ORDER OF INSTRUCTION			
1st Nine Weeks	**2nd Nine Weeks**	**3rd Nine Weeks**	**4th Nine Weeks**
Body of Knowledge: Life Science *(4 benchmarks)* Big Idea 14: Organization and Development of Living Organisms Big Idea 15: Diversity and Evolution of Living Organisms	**Body of Knowledge: Life Science** *(2 benchmarks)* Big Idea 17: Interdependence **Body of Knowledge: Earth and Space Science** *(5 benchmarks)* Big Idea 5: Earth in Space and Time	**Body of Knowledge: Earth and Space Science** *(1 benchmark)* Big Idea 6: Earth Structures **Body of Knowledge: Physical Science** *(4 benchmarks)* Big Idea 8: Properties of Matter Big Idea 9: Changes in Matter	**Body of Knowledge: Physical Science** *(6 benchmarks)* Big Idea 10: Forms of Energy Big Idea 11: Energy Transfer and Transformations
Big Idea 1: The Practice of Science and Big Idea 3: The Role of Theories, Laws, Hypotheses, and Models These Big Ideas should be introduced during the first nine weeks, and then embedded in all science lessons throughout the year as they blend easily with teaching inquiry and are the basis of an activity/lab-based science classroom. Third grade students ask and investigate questions individually and in teams, generate explanations, compare group observations, keep appropriate records, make inferences based on observations, and understand why and how scientists use models. Lab safety and the use of scientific tools should also be introduced at the beginning of the year and re-addressed throughout the year.			

Rationale for Grade 3 Order of Instruction:

1st Nine Weeks

The 1st nine weeks continue to build upon the Life Science concepts students were taught at the end of second grade. They will be able to use their prior knowledge to delve more deeply into the study of the structures and characteristics of plants and animals.

2nd Nine Weeks

Life Science continues during the 2nd nine weeks as students investigate how animals and plants respond to changing seasons and how plants make their own food. Earth and Space Science is also taught during the 2nd nine weeks, and students will make observations of the night skies as seasons change.

3rd Nine Weeks

Earth and Space Science continues during the 3rd nine weeks. Physical Science is also taught during the 3rd nine weeks. Students will focus on challenging and abstract concepts about properties of matter and changes in matter.

4th Nine Weeks

Physical Science continues to be taught during the 4th nine weeks when students will focus on concepts about energy. These concepts require higher level thinking skills.