# 3rd Grade Science Curriculum

## Structures of Life

**Winter:** Glenwood, Highland, Skyline, Sunnycrest  
**Spring:** Hillcrest, Mt. Pilchuck

**Unit Goals:**
- Develop an attitude of respect for life.  
- Gain experience with organisms, both plants and animals.  
- Observe and compare properties of seeds and fruits.  
- Investigate the effect of water on seeds.  
- Observe, describe, and record properties of germinated seeds.  
- Compare different kinds of germinated seeds.  
- Grow plants hydroponically and observe the life cycle of a bean plant.  
- Observe and record beetle and land snail structures and behavior.  
- Use knowledge of beetle and snail life requirements to maintain the organisms in the classroom.  
- Organize data about beetle behavior.  
- Develop responsibility for the care of organisms.  
- Exercise language, art, social studies, and math skills in the context of life science.  
- Use scientific thinking processes to conduct investigations and build explanations: observing, communicating, comparing, and organizing.

## Earth Materials

**Fall:** Glenwood, Highland, Hillcrest  
**Winter:** Mt. Pilchuck  
**Spring:** Skyline, Sunnycrest

**Unit Goals:**
- Develop an interest in earth materials.  
- Gain experiences with rocks and minerals.  
- Understand the process of taking apart and putting together to find out about materials.  
- Use measuring tools to gather data about rocks.  
- Collect and organize data about rocks.  
- Observe, describe, and record properties of minerals.  
- Organize minerals on the basis of the property of hardness.  
- Investigate the effect of vinegar (acid) on a specific mineral, calcite.  
- Use evaporation to investigate rock composition.  
- Learn that rocks are composed of minerals and that minerals cannot be physically separated into other materials.  
- Compare their activities to the work of a geologist.  
- Acquire vocabulary used in earth science.  
- Use scientific thinking processes to conduct investigations and build explanations: observing communicating, comparing, and organizing.