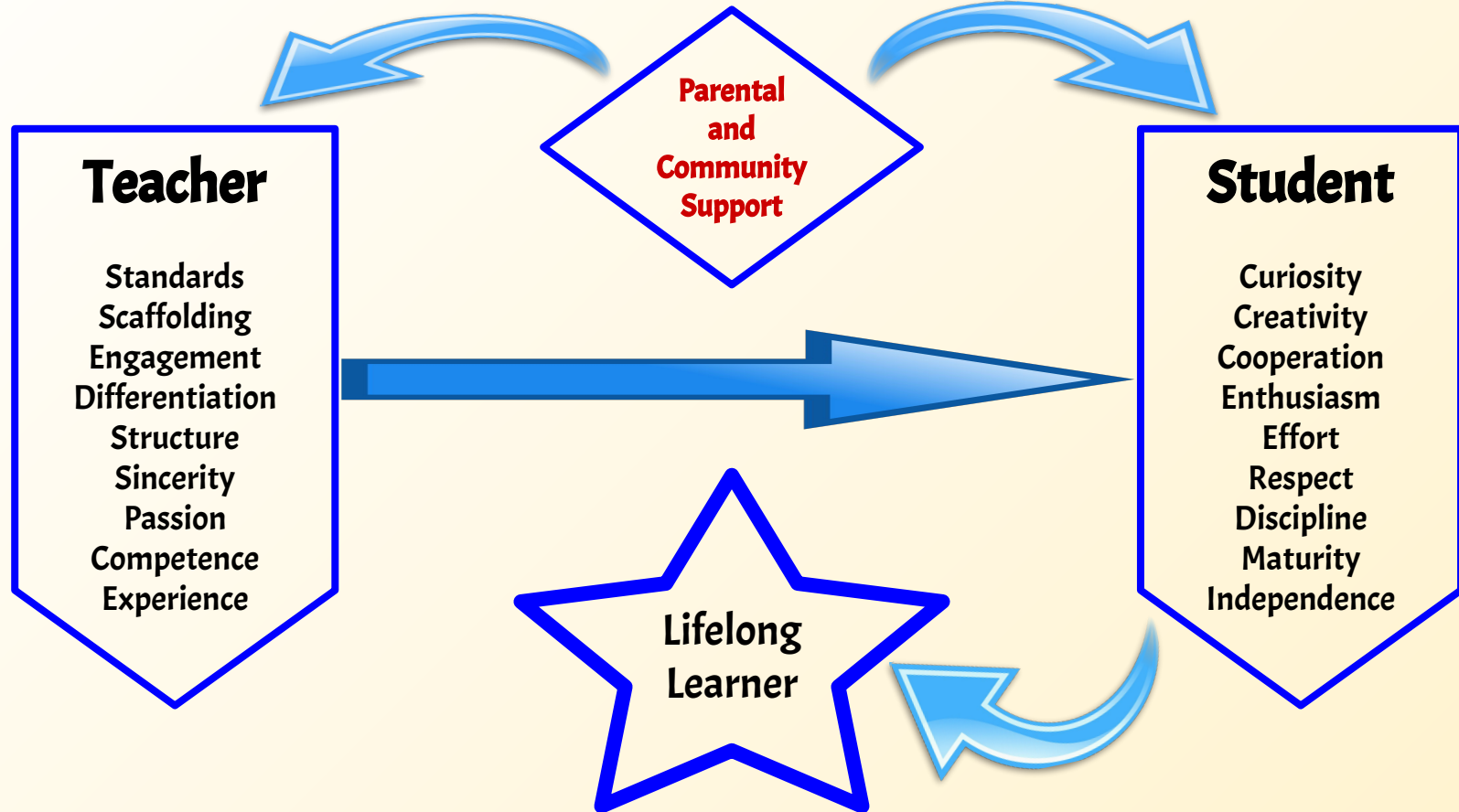


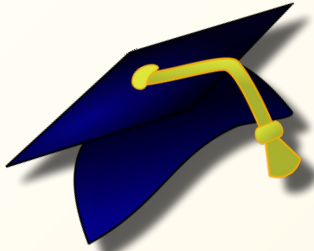


# My Philosophy of Teaching



# Resume

**Credentials:** **Multiple Subject Credential** - CSU San Bernardino 1993



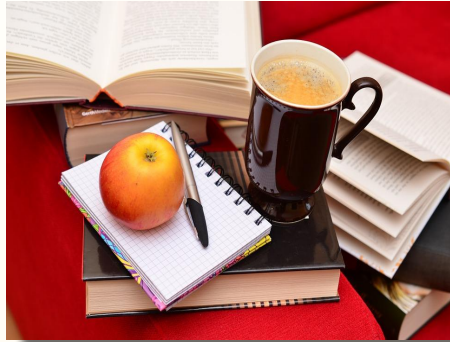
**CLAD** - University of Phoenix 2017

**Single Subject Science Credential** - CSET 2017  
General Science Authorization

**Education:** **Graduate Studies:** 20 Units toward MBA - CSUSB 1991

**Bachelor of Arts:** Business Administration - UCRiverside 1986

## Experience:



**Educator:** Rancho Elementary - Livermore, CA

2015-2018

Part-time Science Specialist 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades

**Owner/Tutor:** iThink Tutoring

2010-2017

Tutored all subjects K-12 and some college

**Educator:** Quarry Lane School - Dublin, CA

2006-2010

Teacher: Fourth Grade

**Tutor:** The Tutoring Club - Livermore, CA

2004-2006

Tutored all subjects preK – college statistics

**Educator:** Wells Middle School - Dublin, CA

2001-2004

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science/Lang. Arts

**Educator:** Ridge Crest Elem. - Moreno Valley, CA

1991-2001

Science/Language Arts Teacher 5<sup>th</sup> grade





# NGSS Curriculum Development

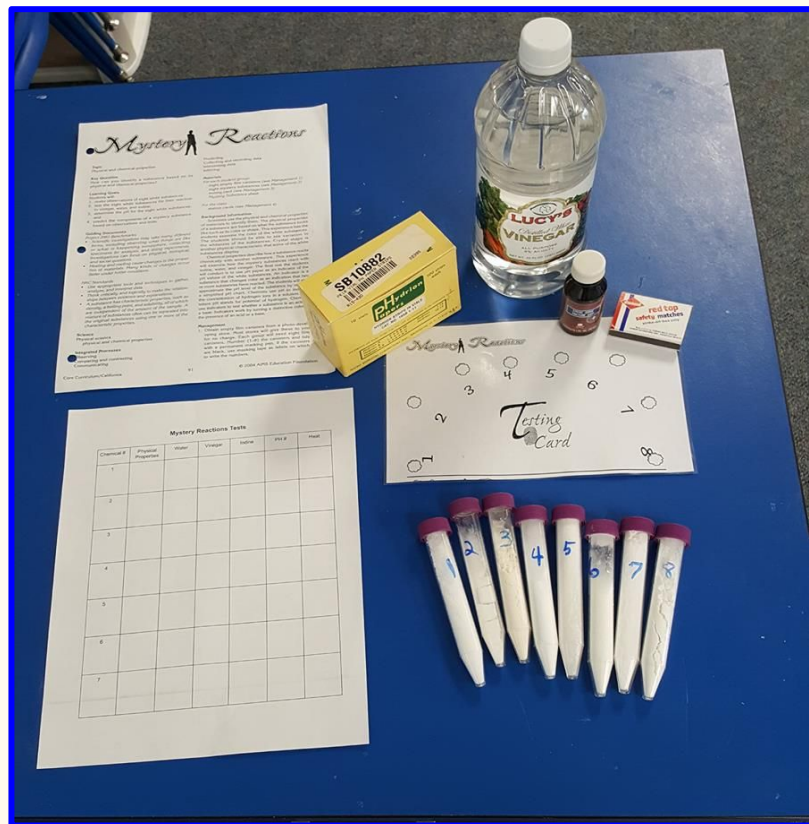
## Grade 5 Instructional Segments

1 What is Matter Made Of?	Students observe different materials and describe their differences. They investigate how materials change when they mix together. They learn to recognize chemical reactions and develop a model of matter being made of particles. These particles move and their arrangement changes, but their mass always stays the same.	PS1.A: Structure and properties of matter PS1.B: Chemical reactions
2 From Matter to Organisms	Students make models that trace the flow of energy and matter in ecosystems. They investigate the needs of plants and gather evidence that all organisms produce waste. They explain how animals depend upon one another as components in an interconnected system.	LS1.C: Organization for matter and energy flow in organisms LS2.A: Interdependent relationships in ecosystems LS2.B: Cycles of matter and energy transfer in ecosystems PS3.D: Energy in chemical processes and everyday life ESS2.A: Earth materials and systems
3 Interacting Earth Systems	Students make models of the flow of energy and matter at the scale of the entire planet, and obtain information about a few example phenomena. They describe these phenomena in terms of interactions between different systems within the broader Earth system. They use their models to understand how humans impact these systems and develop solutions to minimize these effects.	ESS2.A: Earth materials and systems ESS2.C: The roles of water in Earth's surface processes ESS3.C: Human impacts on Earth systems
4 Patterns in the Night Sky	Students ask questions and wonder about the night sky. They investigate the force of gravity and then analyze data to identify patterns related to Earth's motion. They gather evidence and make models showing that the brightness of a star depends on its distance from Earth.	ESS1.A: The Universe and its stars ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System

## Grade 3 Instructional Segments

1 Playground Forces	Students investigate the effects of forces on the motion of playground objects like balls and swings. They use pictorial models to describe multiple forces on objects and predict how they will move as those forces change. They ask questions about how electric and magnetic forces can act without touching and then use them to solve a problem in a design challenge.	PS2.A: Forces and motion PS2.b: Types of interactions ETS1.B: Develop possible solutions
2 Life Cycles for Survival	Students observe life cycles as well as animals living in groups and then decide how these traits help organisms meet their needs. Students measure different traits to document the differences between offspring, their parents, and other members of their population. Some of these variations make organisms more likely to survive.	LS1.B: Growth and development of organisms LS2.D: Social interactions and group behavior LS3.A: Inheritance of traits LS3.B: Variation of traits
3 Surviving in Different Environments	Students develop a model of the relationship between traits, environment, and survival. Students collect evidence that organisms live in environments that best meet their needs, and that changes in the environment can affect the traits and survival of organisms.	LS3.A: Inheritance of traits LS3.B: Variation of traits LS2.C: Ecosystem dynamics, functioning and resilience LS4.A: Evidence of common ancestry and diversity LS4.C: Adaptation LS4.D: Biodiversity and humans ETS1.A: Defining engineering problems ETS1.B: Developing possible solutions
4 Weather Impacts	Students record patterns in weather over the school year and then analyze their data. They learn about weather patterns around the world and design solutions to reduce the impact of weather hazards right in their own school yard.	ESS2.D: Weather and climate ESS3.B: Natural hazards ETS1.B: Developing possible solutions

# Engaging Lessons



## Mystery Powders *Chemistry*

- Physical Properties
- Chemical Reactions
- Testing (water, vinegar, pH, iodine, heat)
- Predicting/Observing/Recording
- Application, Analysis, Synthesis, and Evaluation. (Higher-Order)
- Cooperative Learning
- NGSS

# Mystery Powders - Chemistry



Chemical #	Physical Properties	Water	Vinegar	Iodine	PH #	Heat
1 Salt	white little pink	Salt for paper is yellow, orange and blue	gets bubbling	turns yellow	Neutral 6	Nope
2 Sugar	White Sweet	Sugar for paper is Green and yellow	desolves	turns brown	Neutral 6	turns gold and smells like Pancakes
3 flour	White powder	Flour for paper is Orange then yellow	turns into Powder	turns Black	Neutral 6	turns brown and smells like toast
4 Baking Soda	White Scratchy	Baking soda for paper is orange	starts Fizzing	turns orange	Base 8	Nope
5 Plaster of paris	white thick	Plaster of paris for paper is yellow	starts turning yellow then thick	turns yellow	Neutral 6	turns brown and black
6 corn starch	white soapy	Cornstarch for paper is yellow then green	gets Blurry	turns purple	Base 8	it turned brown and smells like sweater
7 Baking powder	white hard	Baking powder for paper is yellow	turns into pixel	turns Black	Neutral 6	smells like more pancakes
8 cream of tartar	white soft	cream of tartar for paper is orange then yellow	gets sticky on paper	turns brown	acid 4	a little brown



# Engaging Lessons



## What Makes Goo? *Chemistry*

- Chemical Reactions
- Physical Properties
- Knowledge, Application, Analysis, Synthesis and Evaluation

# What Makes Goo?



# Engaging Lessons

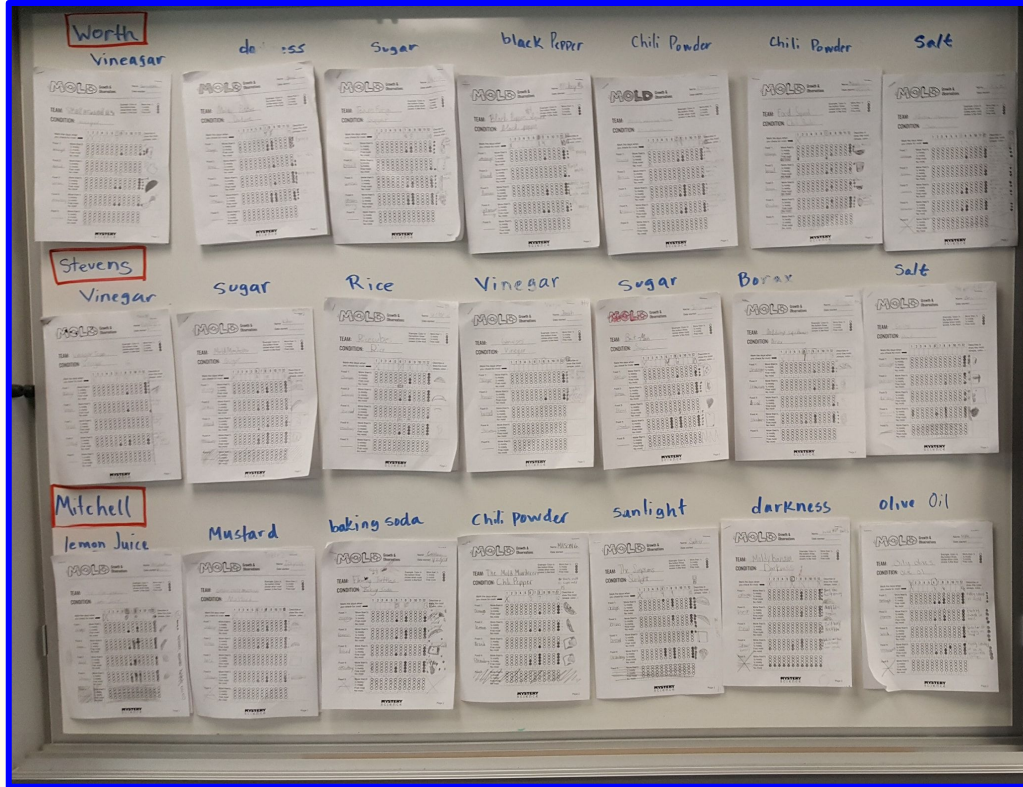


## Mold Terrarium *Life Science*

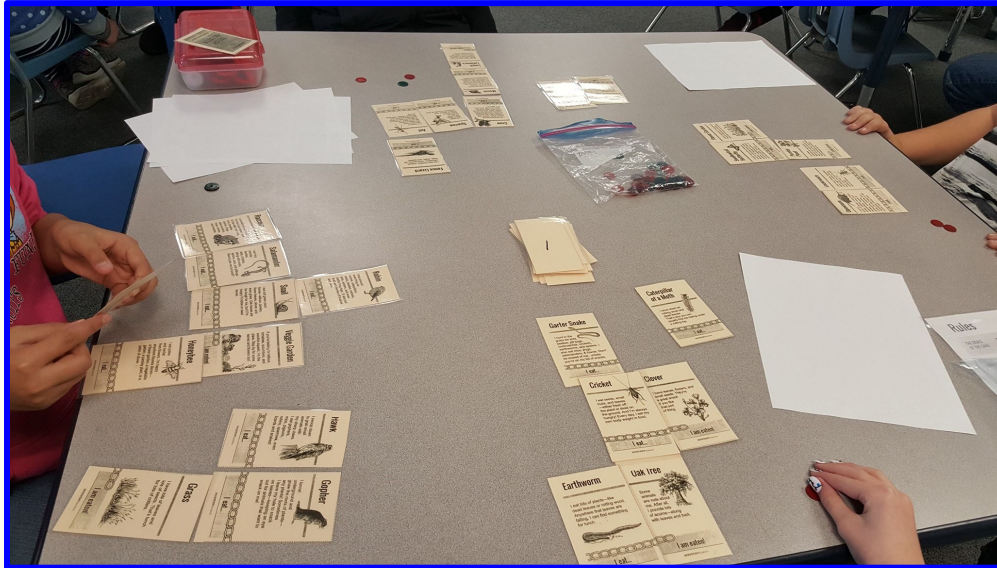
- Properties/Functions of Mold
- Slow down or Speed up Growth
- Experimental Designing
- Control Group
- Predicting/Observing/Recording/Concluding
- Graphing



# Mold Terrarium



# Engaging Lessons



## Food Web Card Game *Life Science*

- Food Chains/Web
- Reading
- Critical Thinking
- Categorizing
- Cooperating/Game Play



# Engaging Lessons

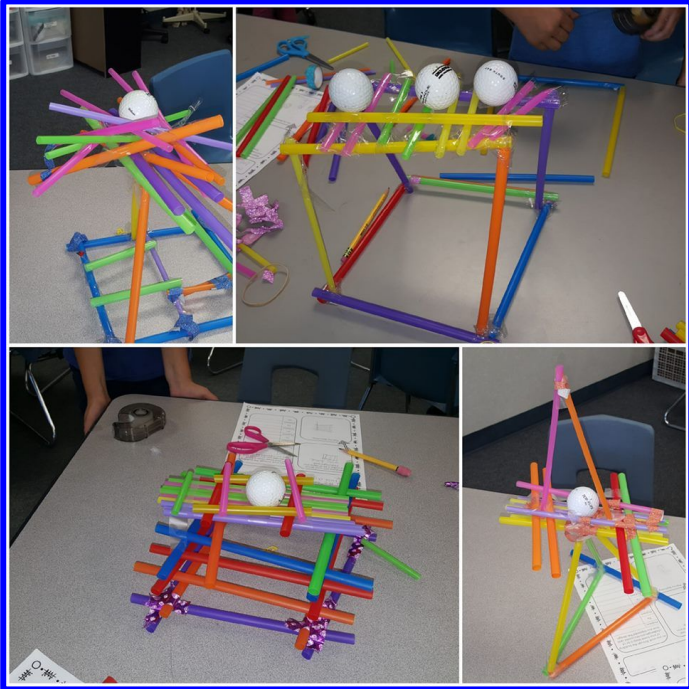


## Chromebook Research

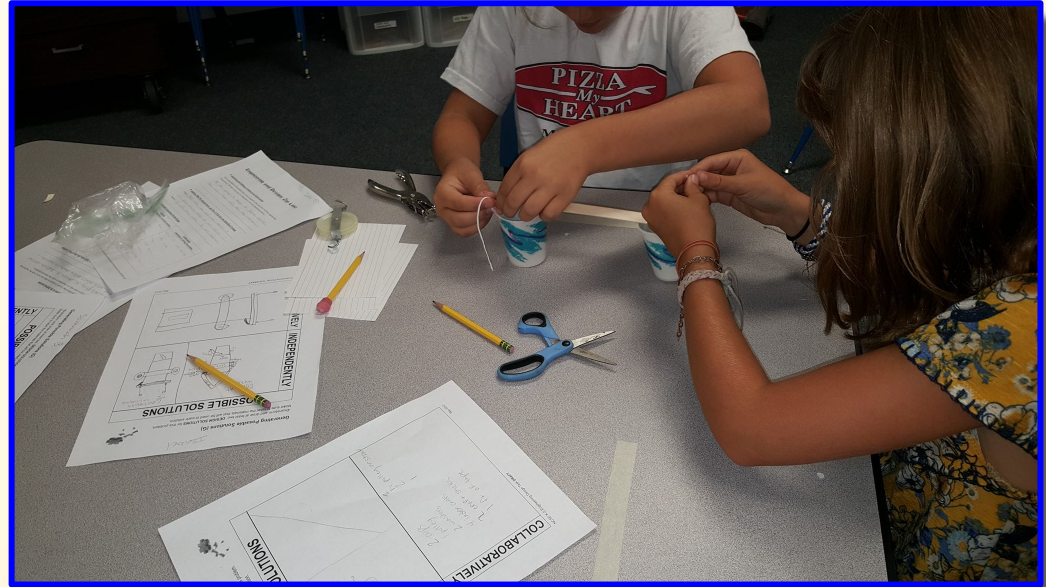
- Research biome of choice
- What do the animals eat?
- What eats the animals?
- Draw or use images to make a food web for your biome including producers.

# Engineering Projects

## Build a Tower

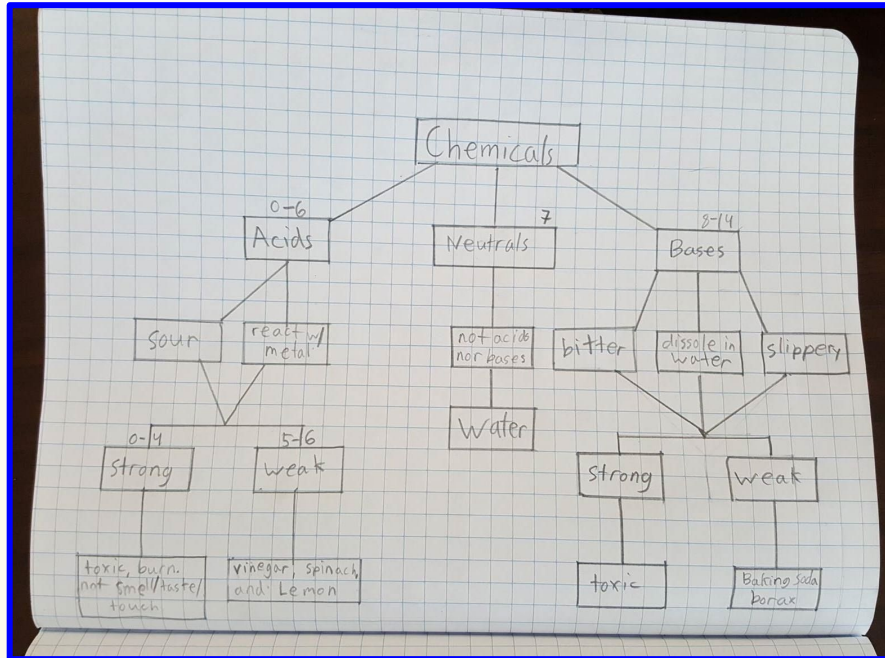


## Zip Lines





# Writing in the Content Areas



Chemichals

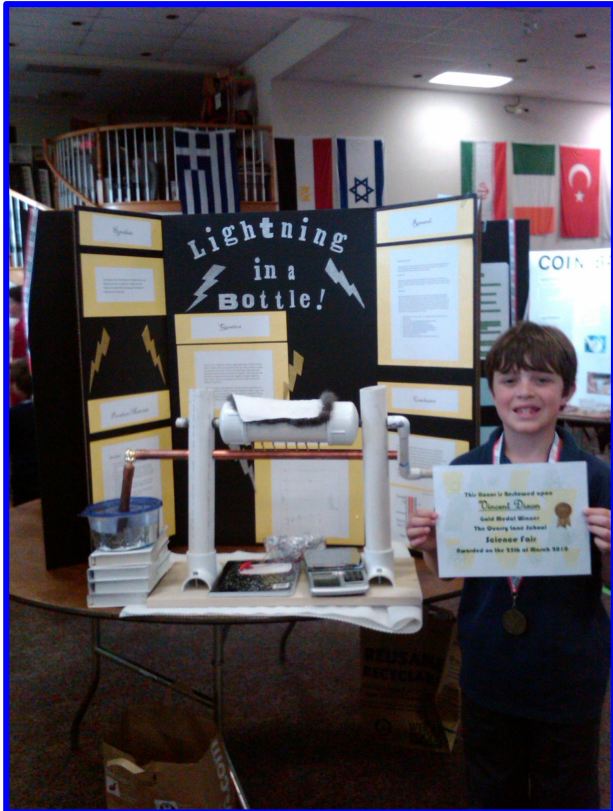
Chemichals are acids, bases, or neutrals. Acids can be strong or weak. Strong acids are very toxic and can burn. Weak acids can be vinegar, spinach, or even lemon. Neutrals are not acids nor bases. One example of a neutral is water. Bases can be bitter, dissolve in water, and can be slippery. They can be strong or weak. Strong bases are toxic. Weak ones are like baking soda or borax.



# Coding and Robotics Club



# Science Fair



Organized  
and ran  
science fairs  
at various  
schools for  
over 20  
years.



# Professional References



Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District  
**Rancho Las Positas School**  
401 East Jack London Boulevard  
Livermore, CA 94551  
(925) 606-4748  
www.rancho.schoolloop.com

May 1, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

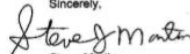
I highly recommend Cheryl Dixon for a teaching position with your district. As principal of Rancho Las Positas Elementary School, I have had the pleasure of working with Cheryl Dixon who held the position of science specialist. I also had the privilege of working with her at Wells Middle School where we taught together. In my interactions with her, she has been professional, competent and takes instruction well.

Cheryl is an excellent science and general education teacher and is a team player willing to step in where needed. Along with her Multiple Subject credential, she holds a Single Subject Science Authorization credential. Cheryl helped develop and write the district's NGSS curriculum ahead of the state adoption. She demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the NGSS curriculum, subject content, and the developmental needs of the students through a variety of relevant learning experiences. Her lessons link present content with past and future learning experiences, other subject areas, and real-world experiences and applications. Cheryl created and ran our school's robotics club in the evenings.

Cheryl is popular with the students and gets along well with the staff. She uses resources, routines and procedures to provide a respectful, safe, student-centered environment that instills in her students a life-long love of learning. While observing her, I noticed there was little inappropriate or off-task behavior by her students. The students were fully immersed in her lessons, but when needed, she could quickly redirect off-task behavior using a variety of methods that come with being a teacher for over 25 years. Cheryl actively listens and pays attention to students' needs and responses. She takes time to listen carefully to all students and acknowledges their contributions. By doing so, she creates a positive learning environment where everyone succeeds.

Cheryl Dixon would be a positive addition to any school district.

Sincerely,

  
Steve Martin  
Principal



Rancho Las Positas Elementary – A California Gold Ribbon School



Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District  
**Rancho Las Positas School**  
401 East Jack London Boulevard  
Livermore, CA 94551  
(925) 606-4748  
www.rancho.schoolloop.com

May 2, 2018


To whom it may concern,

Cheryl Dixon is currently an Elementary Science Specialist at Rancho Las Positas Elementary School in Livermore, California. Together, we form the science team at the school and participate in district wide collaborations monthly. Cheryl has been an integral part of the Elementary Science team. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the group and is a strong leader in and out of the classroom. She was instrumental in the development of the NGSS Curriculum that is currently being used across our district. She brought an innovative approach to the standards and has fostered a love of science in her students.

Cheryl is a great communicator and has a knack for working with challenging students. Her classroom is a place where students are excited to be. She supports her students through positive reinforcement and creates a space where their social and emotional needs are met.

Cheryl Dixon will make an excellent addition to your school. She is the best of the best.

Sincerely,

  
Donna De Rego Ma.Ed.  
Rancho Las Positas Elementary School  
dderego@lvjUSD.org



Rancho Las Positas Elementary – A California Gold Ribbon School



# Professional References

July 17, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of reference for Cheryl Dixon, my sons private tutor for the last seven years. Cheryl has (literally!) changed our lives - so positively and at so many levels. And we are not alone.

My son started kindergarten when he was 4-turning-5 and has always been a little "behind." By 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, when my son was "really" sinking in school (all subjects), all the moms I asked for tutoring recommendations said "You HAVE to call Cheryl! She's THE best!" Well, I did, they were right, and that call changed our lives forever! My son's relationship with Cheryl has been SO pivotal in his academic and developmental success!

As much as my son disliked homework, the minute he knew Cheryl was going to see him, he smiled and felt immediate relief - he knew great work would be done and he would be able to "master" it with her loving guidance. Without her on-going help, I have no doubt my son would have been held back. She is so well versed in ALL subject matters, she intuitively knew how to reach him - and all the other kids that were blessed with her in their lives.

Cheryl has an amazing scope of skill sets and helped in ALL subject matters: English, Math, Social Sciences, Algebra, Geometry, the Sciences and more. Her genuine love and caring for teaching the kids how to think through, and master, the difficult-to-them subject matter was always displayed; she somehow manages to "reach" the kids and speak their own unique language; using straight and gentle talk while she guided them through it. She always made them feel good about themselves, no matter the circumstance!

She is not only well-loved, treasured and admired by the many kids she has guided throughout the years, but also by us parents. We were all so relieved that our kids were in her capable hands - and teaching the many things we were not able to. She truly guides these kids to fulfill their potential and it is such a gift to both the kids and parents. Life changer!

While there are many tears being shed by the local kids and parents that Cheryl is moving away - we are also so happy and grateful for this new chapter in her life and for the countless other children she can continue to share her amazing teaching style with! We are also forever grateful for all the love, caring and help that made such a difference in our lives and the success she set our kids up with.

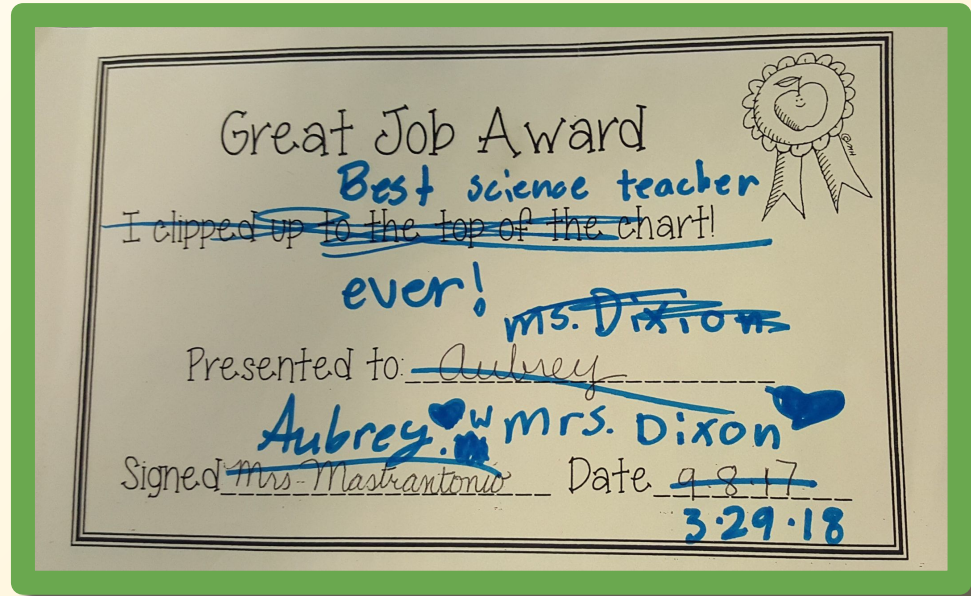
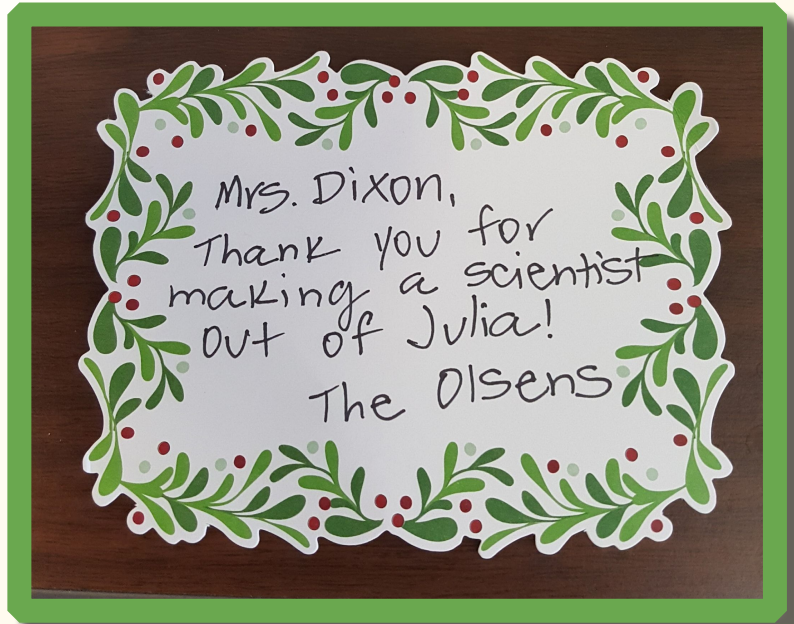
I could go on and on about the wonderful, so please feel free to call if you have "any" questions! In short, Cheryl is a positive life changer - for every child and parent that she connects with!

All the best,

*Roslynn Coleman*

Roslynn Coleman, #925-518-7022  
Livermore, CA

# Student References





# Cheryl Dixon

