

ScienceTrek Information

In response to the absence of an open house information session we have attempted to provide information about the ScienceTrek program, the application process, and answers to common questions we receive. We know that nothing can replace the opportunity to ask questions and interact in person, but we hope the following suffices to answer some of your wonders. If you still have questions please feel free to email us at ScienceTrek@spsd.sk.ca and we will do our best to answer your questions.

Brian Gurney & Ashley Boys
ScienceTrek Teachers

Application Information

- The application process will remain open during these uncertain times:
 - Applications can be dropped off at Montgomery School (mail slot at front door) or be emailed to us via ScienceTrek@spsd.sk.ca.
 - If dropping your application off please ensure application is stapled and secured in an envelope to keep all pieces together.
 - Within the “Reference” section, a teacher/principal sign-off is not necessary at this time; please just specify your current Homeroom Grade 7 Teacher.
- All communication regarding application and admission will occur via email. On the registration form the parent/guardian information that will be utilized for all communication is “first parent/guardian”. Please provide a parent email that is frequently checked as this will be the sole method of communication for all aspects of the application process.
- At this time we are unsure if we will be able to meet some of the deadlines stated within our application form - Application Deadline, Selection Communication, etc) As more information becomes available as to the changes that will be made to accommodate the current situation we will share this via our website. If you are hoping to apply.....please do so and don't be too concerned about what is happening next. Most importantly take care of yourself and those around you.

General Questions about the Program

- How many students get invited into the program each year?
 - Up to 28 students selected through a lottery (draw) system.
 - Additionally, a “Waiting List” is formed as a continuation of the lottery draw and students will be contacted if a space becomes available.

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- What does a day in ScienceTrek look like?
 - This question is best tackled by answering it from two perspectives:
 - *At Montgomery School* - When we are learning from our home base at Montgomery we begin our day at 8:45 am. Throughout the day students engage in a variety of curricular focus areas. Lunch is eaten in our room and all students are expected to stay for lunch. This is due to the fact that we often will alter our day to fit with the learning opportunities that exist around us. For example, we may need to move our lunch slightly forward if we have a guest speaker or are working within our immediate community. Presently, we dismiss at 3:00 pm to accommodate the transit schedule for the Montgomery area.
 - *Learning away from the school* - The start time for our day when away from the school can vary slightly but usually revolves around our usual 8:45 am start time. In most situations, we will meet at a predetermined location(s) within the city to start our day. Depending on the planned activities for the day, location(s) and the equipment required we will have lunch at a location within our learning environment. This may be indoors but most likely at an outdoor space. During the warmer months we cycle to and from our learning locations throughout the city. During the cooler months one will often find us walking as a mode of transport as we move from one learning situation to another. At the completion of our day (approximately 3:00 pm) students would be dismissed from a predetermined location. During the first few weeks of school we tend to start and end our days at school. This helps us teach students elements of cycling and travel throughout our city in a safe and controlled manner.
- Multi-day Excursions (*based on previous school years and can be subject to change)
 - Although most of our learning takes place between the school hours of 8:45 am - 3:00 pm, we have a couple of predetermined trips that involve an overnight stay throughout our year:
 - *Fall trip* - Our students participate in a 2-night (3-day) overnight camp that includes travel on our bikes, team building activities, introductory work with the science curriculum and immersion in nature.
 - *Spring trip* - Our students participate in a 2-night (3-day) canoe trip that allows us to camp along the river, cook our own meals and explore the elements of our Watershed on the South Saskatchewan River.
- Can students participate in extra-curricular activities throughout their year in ScienceTrek?
 - Many of our students participate in extra-curricular activities within both the Saskatoon community (i.e. hockey, dance, cadets, etc.) and school community throughout the year. Students are welcome to join all extra-curricular activities

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offered at Montgomery School (i.e. basketball, track, volleyball, etc.).

- Can students be driven to school by their parents?
 - One of the greatest outcomes from being a student in ScienceTrek is the knowledge and understanding of how to move about the city of Saskatoon using a variety of modes of transportation (bike, public transit, walking, etc). We recognize that demographic distance can be a challenge and hope students and parents work to find modes that allow acceptable levels of independence which may include carpooling in certain situations. Transportation is not provided by the school division (school bus).

- Is there a student fee for the program?
 - As indicated on the ScienceTrek 2020-2021 application form “The cost to the student for this program will be a \$130.00 student fee. Payment will be due when the students begin the program. Acceptance into this program is not based on the ability to pay. If cost is a barrier, please contact us via email (sciencetrek@spsd.sk.ca).”

- School Supplies and Specific Gear
 - Our classroom supply list is very much like a grade 8 classroom and is communicated once a student has confirmed their acceptance into the program. Specific items associated with our out-of-school experiences include items such as the following: a proper fitting and functioning bike capable of travel on pavement and gravel, a U-lock and cable, bike repair kit, helmet, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, rain gear, warm winter boots and clothing (we do go out and about when it is really cold).

- Are students able to continue band if they are accepted into ScienceTrek?
 - Students are able to continue band at Montgomery School and are asked to specify on their application if they will be continuing and which instrument they play.

- ScienceTrek and Curriculum
 - Throughout the year in ScienceTrek students are taught all the required subject areas and Saskatchewan curriculum for grade 8. We work to infuse the science curriculum into a variety of learning activities and experiences throughout the year. More specifically, we try to integrate multiple subject areas into our learning experiences and challenge our students to see the connection of knowledge and information throughout their learning.