



Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your student is beginning a science unit created at the Battle Creek Area Mathematics and Science Center. This unit was designed to promote inquiry-based science, and is complete with classroom materials to accompany the activities. During the next eight weeks, your student will be actively involved with this unit. The unit, *Chemical Change*, is geared for seventh grade students and focuses on properties of matter, atoms and molecules, elements and compounds and physical and chemical properties of matter. The unit includes the following areas of study:

1. Matter is made up of atoms and molecules that are represented through models.
2. Elements are chemical substances that make up all other substances and are composed of one kind of atom.
3. Elements are organized on the Periodic Table in families.
4. Physical and chemical properties identify substances and determine when a chemical change has occurred.

Your student will be engaged in multiple activities that engage learners in discussing, investigating, and researching different changes in matter, chemical properties, and the organization and identification of substances. They will explore physical and chemical properties of matter, including density, state of matter, boiling point conductivity, color, flammability, pH, and reactivity.

Students will also be involved in making models of molecules and what happens during a chemical change to form new substances. They will describe how elements within the Periodic Table are organized and discuss the similarities and differences of their properties.

Suggestions for activities to do at home are included with this letter. These activities will reinforce the concepts taught during this unit of instruction.

We hope you enjoy discussing the concepts involved in *Chemical Change* with your student. Let us know if we may be of assistance.

The Outreach Staff
Battle Creek Area Mathematics and Science Center
(269) 965-9598 or (269) 965-9584