

December 11, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians and Grade 9 Students,

Starting in the 2018-2019 school year, Western Tech will implement the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The NGSS were created by teachers, scientists, and leaders in the science field from around the world. The purpose for NGSS is to help students think more scientifically and explore science as it is done in the real world.

The new standards will incorporate engineering and technology principles starting in elementary school and set high expectations for all students, not just those planning to pursue STEM careers. In the classroom, teachers will emphasize exploration and experimentation in the learning process. Due to the adoption of the standards by BCPS, the science sequence will change for Western Tech starting with the class of 2021 (current Grade 9 students). Please review the new course sequence on the reverse side. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Jennifer Martinez at [jallen3@bcps.org](mailto:jallen3@bcps.org) or call the school at 410-887-0840.

For more information about the NGSS visit the following website:

<https://www.nextgenscience.org/>

Sincerely,

Murray G. "Buddy" Parker III  
Principal