August 31, 2015

To: Elementary Science Safety Contacts

CC: Elementary Principals

Re: Elementary Science Safety Plan 2015 and Beyond

During the 2014-2015 school year, elementary science safety leads were asked to meet approximately one time per month.  During this time, the team developed a sustainable plan for delivering science safety information pertinent to elementary teachers.  The information presented by the Council of State Science Supervisors was found to be particularly helpful.

In an attempt to align systems and make our systems more efficient, the group worked to develop a resource which shares the importance of science safety while also being flexible enough to be shared during a staff meeting, in a flipped version, at team planning sessions, etc.  These resources are now available on the Academic Innovation website (<http://academicinnovation.weebly.com/science-safety.html>).

Each elementary school science safety contact is to use these presentations to ensure best practices for science safety are adhered to.  The minimum expectation is that one topic is shared or reviewed monthly during 2015-2016.  Then, beginning in 2016-2107, for returning staff, teachers may individually review the presentations and sign off that they understand the science safety guidelines as they pertain to elementary schools.  New staff should always be presented this information in the monthly format to ensure understanding.

A sign in sheet and all presentations are posted on the Academic Innovation web-site (<http://academicinnovation.weebly.com/science-safety.html>). Several optional items are posted as well. Over time, we hope to gather other questions and resources from schools to develop this resource more fully for teachers.

If CEUs are being requested, the request must be made by the school to Professional Development Services in advance of offering the Science Safety professional development.

Copies of completed sign in sheets will be due May 1st of each school year.

Questions regarding chemical safety may be directed to Dusty Rhodes, Onslow County Schools Chemical Hygiene Officer.

All other elementary science safety questions may be directed to Michael Elder or Michelle Chadwick.