

Beneath the Surface

An Independent Study

Dear Parents, Teachers, and PEAKers,

We've started our annual Independent Study project! We'll be focusing on ocean-related topics. Students began by going over an exhaustive Interest Inventory to give them as many topic ideas as possible. They then narrowed their focus down to two topics each. Students created idea webs for each topic and met with partners to help narrow down to the one perfect topic for each of them. The list is extensive and very diverse! You'll get to hear much more about it as the unit progresses. Students also spent one hour conducting internet research to get an overview of both how to conduct research, and some basic facts about their topics. This week we'll broaden that knowledge by gathering more research and beginning to sift through what they have gathered to focus on specific pertinent details.

We'll also start our Classroom Ocean project. We will be creating a model ocean floor habitat right here in class! This multi-week project will begin this week with a study of eight different ocean biomes and will culminate in giving guided tours to Rossiter students, as we show them habitat structures, the many species of plants and animals that inhabit this specific region of the ocean, discuss scientific factors like pressure, temperature, water conditions, currents, and more. I'll be sure to share pictures- it will be amazing!

This Week's Activities: February 24 - 27

Research: Internet I can effectively navigate the internet and collect and cite relevant research with minimal (or no) teacher guidance.	Diving into Ocean Environments- Student groups will research various ocean environments and present their research to the class. One of these biomes will be selected for our classroom ocean project.
Research: Interview I can conduct an expert interview by phone, video, or in person with teacher assistance.	Ocean Interviews - Students will investigate experts as possible interviewees for their projects. We'll also discuss how to approach an interview and questions design.
Research: Internet I can navigate the internet and collect relevant research, including citations, with teacher guidance.	Classroom Ocean - Students will be working together to turn our classroom into an ocean! We'll start this week with some research about the ocean floor.

Starting an incredible voyage,

J. Slead & C. Sieminski

PEAK GT3-5: Winter 2025

February 24 Bryant Hawthorne Jim Darcy	25 Four Georgians Rossiter	26 Jefferson Smith Warren	27 Broadwater Central Kessler	28 PEAK Middle School CRA/HMS
March 3 Bryant Hawthorne Jim Darcy	4 Four Georgians Rossiter	5 Jefferson Smith Warren	6 Broadwater Central Kessler	7 PEAK Middle School CRA/HMS
Lewis & Clark Library Trips: Bring library cards!				
10	11	12	13	14
PEAK Staff administering testing in all elementary schools (No Elementary PEAK Classes)				
17 Bryant Hawthorne Jim Darcy	18 Four Georgians Rossiter	19 Jefferson Smith Warren	20 Broadwater Central Kessler	21 PEAK Middle School CRA/HMS
24	25	26	27	28
PEAK Middle School/ High School Week (No Elementary PEAK Classes)				
31	April 1	2	3	4
Spring Break				
7 Bryant Hawthorne Jim Darcy	8 Four Georgians Rossiter	9 Jefferson Smith Warren	10 Broadwater Central Kessler	11 PEAK Middle School CRA/HMS
14 Bryant Hawthorne Jim Darcy	15 Four Georgians Rossiter	16 Jefferson Smith Warren	17 Broadwater Central Kessler	18 PEAK Middle School CRA/HMS