

Hands on Science (HoS):

HoS is a volunteer run program that brings grade-appropriate experiments into the science classroom 4-5 times per school-year for each grade. Each experiment runs for 30 to 60 minutes and is “manned” by parent-volunteers in their child’s/children’s classroom. Experiments are designed to be an adjunct to the children’s science curriculum reinforcing information taught by their teachers, and providing additional information to broaden the student’s understanding of the subject in a “hands-on” manner. The best part is that NO EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED to be an HoS volunteer! This is a great way to spend some class time with your child and their classmates and assist in their learning “in their classroom.”

A handful of Parent volunteers are needed for each experiment as a “Lead,” “Helpers,” and a “Float.”

1. **“Helpers”** are a group of volunteers who assist the students in a particular part or station of the experiment in their child’s classroom. Typically, 3-4 stations will be set up that the students rotate to. The “Helper” will demonstrate and then assist the students in the “hands-on” application at their station. These are basic grade-appropriate skills: nothing too difficult, so don’t stress! Each “Helper” is given an experimental write-up 1-2 weeks before the experiment date by the “Grade or Class Coordinator” that explains what is to be done and how. All materials are provided the day of the experiment by the “Lead.” Materials can be provided to a “Helper” before-hand by the “Lead” should you want to do a run-through prior to the experiment date.
2. **“Float”** is the individual who fills in as needed on the day of the experiment in their child’s classroom. This might be in assisting at various stations that need supplies replenished, in ensuring students rotate in a timely manner to each station, trouble-shooting problems, filling in for a “Helper” that is unavoidably detained, etc. The “Float” will work closely with the “Lead” ensuring the HoS experiment runs smoothly and well. We want to make sure our time in the classroom is a complete success!
3. **“Lead”** is the person who is in charge of a particular experiment in their child’s classroom. They provide a five-minute introduction to the students about what they will be doing during the “hands-on” parts of the experiment, and give a very basic review of what they will be learning. At the end of the experiment, they provide a five-minute review of what was accomplished and the basics of what was learned. The “Lead” is responsible for contacting the assigned “Helpers” and “Float” 1-2 weeks before the experiment date to identify ‘who’s doing what’ the day of the experiment, receives and returns the experiment materials (Lab box) to the Class/Grade Coordinator after the experiment is done, and ensures the experiment write-ups are returned at the end of the experiment.
4. **“Class Coordinator”** is the person responsible for scheduling the “Lead,” “Helpers,” and “Float” for each experiment in their child’s classroom and ensuring all experimental write-ups and materials (lab boxes) are provided to the “Lead,” “Helpers,” and “Float.” They are THE CONTACT for that class for all HoS questions and concerns. At the end of each experiment, they are responsible for collecting all experimental write-ups and lab materials from the “Lead,” checking that the inventory of supplies have been returned, makes an inventory of items “used-up” that need replenishing in the lab box, and ensures all items and receipts for reimbursement for items purchased are returned to the “Hands on Science Coordinators” by the end of the year.
5. **“Grade Coordinator”** is the person who has the responsibility of coordinating both classes in a grade. This happens in 4th and 5th grade where the science classes are a mixture of students from each homeroom.
6. **“Hands on Science Coordinators”** are the two individuals coordinating the Hands on Science Program for St. Joan of Arc School with reporting responsibility of Associate Board members to the SJA PSO.