

May 15, 2009

Dear Mayor Daley,

My name is [redacted] and I am a student at Abraham Lincoln Elementary in Lincoln Park. I think that some of the schools in Chicago have problems. We are the third biggest school district in the USA but some of our schools, like the one my wonderful teacher used to work at, don't have time for practical sciences like chemistry, physics and biology. My teacher said that the Board of Education says that north side schools don't have good enough ISAT scores in these areas.

On the matter of chemistry, I think that it is a very important science in this world. It deals with combinations on the molecular level. If it weren't for biochemists (chemists who specialize in the building blocks of life), we wouldn't know how life first appeared on earth. I think schools should really teach a bit more chemistry. If they don't, kids aren't going to become chemists and unlock new secrets of the building blocks of the universe.

On the matter of physics, however – all I've seen of physics in the third grade is the three states of matter – solids, liquids and gases. There are also many different states of matter like colloids, Bose-Einstein compounds and plasmas. I think you should care about physics because it's the science of the world. It's one of the most practical sciences there is. If we don't have physics, we wouldn't have knowledge.

Biology is the study of living things. If we didn't have biology, we would never know how cells work, how to classify animals or how a growing embryo develops in its mother's womb. Biology is one of the most important sciences there is. I've read a biology section in the science encyclopedia and it's one of the thickest chapters there is. There are chapters on cell division, genetic engineering and microbiology. On the subject of microbiology – if we didn't have microbiology, we wouldn't know how we get sick or what the inner structure of bacteria and viruses looks like. We wouldn't know what the fuel that powers us is. We wouldn't know what makes that fuel. We wouldn't even know how the inside of ourselves work. We wouldn't know what nerves were or how messages got sent from the brain. Biology is pretty important.

Chicago is a great city but we have to make some changes. One of my friends put forth a great idea on hydropower. "We're so close to the lake," he said. "It wouldn't take much energy to create hydropower." Wouldn't it be cool if the next Albert Einstein or Thomas Edison came from Chicago? We really need more education in the field of science. As I said before, some schools don't get to study it. It's a fascinating topic – my favorite – and from what I've said and confirmed in this letter we *need* science.

Sincerely,

[redacted]
Third Grade, Lincoln School