



6th Grade Science

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Office Hours: Wednesdays or by appointment

Test Days-Tuesdays

6th Grade Science Syllabus

Course Description and Objectives

Sixth Grade Science has officially rolled out the new integrated course model aligned with NGSS. The idea behind an integrated model in science is to explore phenomena observed in our daily lives, and understand all related scientific concepts surrounding specific, and often misunderstood, rarities. The integrated model interweaves the three discipline-specific topics (Earth, Life, and Physical sciences) with engineering components embedded within each segment. There are 4 segments per grade, focusing on age-appropriate standards. For 6th grade, these 4 segments are: Systems, Environmental Interactions, Influence of Plant and Animal Structures and Behaviors, and Human Impact.

For more information on the standards taught in this course please visit:

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/MS%20LS%20DCI%20combinedf.pdf>

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE CURRICULUM-Stemscopes

Supplies: Students will use an Interactive Notebook (INB) (spiral) and the Stemscopes Student Notebook. .

Homework, Projects, and Grading Policies

All grading, written work, testing, and homework standards that are used in this class reflect the adopted Academic Standards for Woodside School. Homework should be seen as an integral part of the educational program at WES. *For more information on WES' homework policy, please refer to the handbook.*

Homework in science will not be daily. Students will be asked to study for tests, work on projects, complete notebook pages, finish work not completed in class, complete the current event research and prepare for the presentation, and work on the STEM fair project. Homework helps to develop work habits and study skills, too.

- **SCIENCE CURRENT EVENTS** For this assignment, students are expected to CLOSE read 2 articles (expectations explained in class) of their choosing from the science community (within the last year). Once they've CLOSE read the articles, they are asked to write a two

paragraph summary; one stating the facts, and the other stating the importance of the articles. The assignment is designed for the students to research, dissect the text, understand the main points, revel in the remarkable advancements in science going on right now, and present their findings to the class. Each student chooses their due date, and will be expected to adhere to their own homework schedule that works best for them. Students will present the information, using Google Slides, on the their due date and turn in the articles and paragraphs. One current event per trimester.

- **STEM FAIR**-The STEM Fair is **OPTIONAL** for sixth graders this year, but **HIGHLY** encouraged. **EVERY 6TH GRADER SHOULD PARTICIPATE!!!** If a sixth grader chooses to participate, all the work will be completed at home. Resources will be provided. A timeline of events and deadlines will be handed out to the students participating. I will be their STEM Fair mentor, but no class time will be used. I will do my best to assist each student in adhering to the deadlines set for them, assisting them in any way I can before school, at lunch, after school, or by email.
- **PROJECTS**-We will complete several small projects, as well as a few large projects, throughout the year. Long-term projects will be assigned in advance and students will be given a suggested timeline. It is the student's responsibility to turn in the long-term project before the due date if he or she will not be at school the day the project is due.

Grading Standards

Grade	Percent	Grade Point
A	93-100	4.00
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.00
D-	60-62	0.67
F	59 and Below	0

Citizenship:

- O: Outstanding
- S: Satisfactory
- N: Needs Improvement
- U: Unsatisfactory

Incompletes (INC): Students who have a passing grade in class, but have not completed all the required work by report card time may receive an "INC" in place of a letter grade. That student will then have two weeks to complete the required work to receive a grade. If the work is not completed

in that period of time, the student's grade will be based on an average of grades recorded plus a zero for each missing assignment.

Test Corrections: Students may do test corrections if they score below a 70%. By completing test corrections properly, your child may earn up to a 75% score.

Grading: Grades are not weighted by a certain percentage, but by points. Tests, larger projects and assignments are worth more points than classwork, participation, homework assignments, and quizzes.

Excused Absences: Students will be given the opportunity to make up missed assignments because of an excused absence. Excused absences include medical appointments and sickness. Students will be given one additional day for each excused absence to make up assignments for no loss of credit.

Unexcused Absences: Students who miss school due to suspension, truancy, travel and/or unexcused absences (sports and shadowing other schools) must turn in their missed work upon return. If a test happens to fall on the day the student returns to class, he or she will be required to take the test that day. It is up to the students to be responsible. If too much time passes, the missing assignments are not completed or turned in, students will receive a zero.

Late Work: All late homework, projects, and essays will be subject to a deduction of points. Missed tests will need to be completed within one week of the original test date.

Organization: With the new Stemscopes program, how the assignments are organized is a work in progress. Students will either keep all assignments in their Science Interactive Notebook (INB), science folders, or will be organizing their papers in a packet to be turned in at the end of a segment or scope. Students should not throw anything away unless instructed by the teacher. INB or packets will be checked (for a grade) on the day tests are administered and throughout the segment and scope.

Acceptability of Written Work: All work must be neatly done in legible handwriting or typed. The use of a computer is strongly suggested. Unless otherwise specified, I prefer students' work to be submitted in hard copy form, not electronically.

My Teaching Style:

I love being a teacher. I love science. I love my students. I care for them and their success the moment they walk through my door. I have extremely high expectations and know the students are capable of far more than they can imagine. I want them to be happy, have fun learning, love to be in class, and love learning about science. I will teach the science content required, study skills, life skills, and a love for science.

We are all a team; the student, the teacher, and the parents. Each student's needs are different and require special attention. Working closely with each student's family is a vital component to student success. Please feel free to contact me about anything.

6th Grade Science Norms

The norms were created by the students during the first week of school.

Student Norms:

If our classroom is going to be a happy, safe, and fun place to learn, STUDENTS will:

- make good decisions. This means we will try to sit next to someone we would work well with, motivate each other, and push each other to be a better student and understand better.
- think outside the box and have an open mind. This means students will approach each day with optimism and perseverance, open to new experiences and information.
- listen to the teacher and respect classmates. This means the students will pay attention to instructions and information given by the teacher and raise their hands when they have questions or thoughtful insights to add to class discussions.
- actively participate in class. This means students will be engaged in lectures and lessons, actively listening and participating. Students will always try to give their personal best. Don't just sit in your chair!

Teacher Norms

If our classroom is going to be a happy, safe, and fun place to learn, THE TEACHER will:

- understand the needs of all students. This means she will consider changing the pace of lessons according to class understanding. She will move more quickly when students understand and slow down when the students need more time to understand. This also means she will always try to keep in mind how a student might feel or what it is like to walk in their shoes.
- be enthusiastic. This means she will be enthusiastic to keep students interested. She will plan fun experiments, projects, and lessons to keep the students engaged and excited about science.
- be kind, cheerful, and respectful. This means she will continue to be the teacher she was last year. She will be positive, excited to be at school, kind, and respectful toward all students.
- stay organized to help teach efficiently. This means lessons and materials will be prepared ahead of time.

Parent Support:

To help your child stay organized and feel successful please talk to your 6th grader and ask them what they are learning about in science, check over their Interactive notebook or science packet, check PowerSchool, or email me!

-Parent conferences are scheduled for October 3, 10, 17, 24.

Communication:

The best way to contact me is via email at jparker@woodsideschool.us. You may also contact me by leaving a voice message at extension 1024. I will respond as soon as I can. :)

This is going to be an AWESOME YEAR OF SCIENCE!!!!