

Sixth Grade Science

2016-17

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Class Description/Content

This is a semester course where the focus will be on the scientific method, cells, genetics, energy, atmosphere, water cycle, human impact and body systems. These concepts will be taught using the scientific method and assignments where students are required to show evidence to support their answers.

State/District Requirements

All content taught will be focused on state standards relating the topics listed above. A work sample will be done where students use the scientific method. An emphasis for students will be on using evidence to support their answers.

Make-Up/Late Work

Students will be given homework sporadically throughout the year. Usually activities will be done in class with the emphasis on having students doing as much hands-on work as possible. Late work is accepted, but may be graded down depending on the situation. If a student is absent, s/he is responsible to ask the Mr. Mann what needs to be made up.

Modifications for TAG Students

Students will be challenged in a variety of ways based on pre/post assessments. Open-ended questions/activities, clustering, self-directed activities and learning to think outside the box are a few ways students will be challenged.

Supplies

Spiral, basic calculator, notebook paper, pencils, black or blue ballpoint pen

Behavior Expectations

Students are expected to be a positive influence on the class toward creating a safe atmosphere for learning and respect.

Grading

- Grades will continue running through to the end of the semester. They will not restart every 6 weeks.
- A second assessment of the same standard will be weighted 4x the value of the first assessment. Students still not proficient after 2nd assessment can arrange a 3rd attempt outside of class time.
- There is a “final exam” assessment that covers many standards. In this instance, students would only have one opportunity to show proficiency on this type of assessment.
- The average of each standard’s assessment grade will comprise 90% of a student’s overall final grade. The remaining 10% is their homework/classwork grade.
- The basic foundation of our grading policy is communicating a level of proficiency for each assessed standard. We will use the following 4 point scale when grading assessments:

4 = Advanced
3 = Proficient
2 = Basic
1 = Below Basic

(see back for details)

- Traditional letter grades will still be communicated on student report cards. The following scale will be used to calculate letter grades:

Letter Grade	Assessment Grade (4-pt scale)	Levels of Proficiency	Percentages
A	3.50-4.00	Advanced	87.5% - 100%
B	2.76-3.49	Proficient	69.0% - 87.4%
C	2.01-2.75	Basic	50.1% - 68.9%
D	1.51-2.00		37.7% - 50.0%
F	0-1.50	Below Basic	0% - 37.6%

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