



Sixth Grade Syllabus: Honors Science
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938-9008 (plan time 2:00-3:30)

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled."

– [Plutarch](#)

Science is defined as the knowledge gained by observing the natural world. In sixth grade science we will ask questions about ecosystems, earth's systems, engineering design, energy, biological change, and earth and human activity. We will learn about some of the amazing things all around us that we take for granted everyday!

- Textbook:** Pearson Tennessee Middle Grades
Interactive Science Textbook
- Materials:** Textbook
Folder with Prongs and Pockets
Composition Book
- Expectations:** **WORK HARD AND BE NICE TO PEOPLE**
- Communication:** In the near future, you will get log in information for the Aspen software. This will allow you to view your student's grades and assignments. The best way to communicate with me is through our school email. (See above.) Please contact me if you ever have a question or concern. I check my email 3 or 4 times a day.

Grading: The Knox County grading scale will be used.

A 93-100
B 85-92
C 75-84
D 70-74
U 0-69

Test grades will count from 50-200 points. Class activities, quizzes, and assignments will count from 10-100 points each.

Assignments are due by the stated date. Late work will be accepted for partial credit. Students engaged in cheating will be subject to disciplinary action.

Class Format: Class format will include reading of assigned material, learning new vocabulary words, discussion of concepts and ideas, participation in support activities, review and evaluation. It is very important that students carefully read assigned material and learn new terms so that class discussion and activities will be meaningful.

Extra Help: Extra help will be available to students on an individual basis before and after school. **Students should contact me when this help is needed.**

Course Content We will be focusing on the following content areas:

- Physical Science- Energy
- Life science- Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics and Biological Change: Unity and Diversity
- Earth and Space Science-Earth's Systems and Earth and Human Activity

The students will see the interrelationships between different science areas. Study skills, critical thinking, group work ethics, computer skills, and communication will be an integral part of your child's science class this year.

Suggested **Optional** Resources:

BBC Planet Earth, Life and Blue Planet DVD's
National Geographic, Eyewitness and Discovery Videos
One Strange Rock
Various reference books in the classroom and Library
Various scientific internet websites
Various periodicals such as National Geographic, Discovery and Nature
Relevant YouTube videos and clips
Eight Below (when studying biomes)
Various other relevant videos

If you do not approve of a specific resource listed in this syllabus, please make a request to me in writing and an alternative assignment will be provided. The request should include your name, the child's name, the specific activity in which you do not want your child to participate, and the nature of your objection.

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion—and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective and respectful manner in accordance with the following:

- 1. Music, art, literature, or drama with a religious theme or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
- 2. The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature and history shall be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies shall never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs; and
- 3. Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to express religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech and debate.

Sixth Grade Syllabus Check-Off and Return Sheet

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

Below is a list of the information that you should have received from your student. Please review the list and mark each section accordingly. Please see my Aspen class page for the syllabus.

- I have reviewed a copy of the Sixth Grade Syllabus that explained: textbook, student materials, conduct, grading, absent work, and the class format.

Initial_____

- I have received a copy of the Suggested Resources. I understand that materials may be selected from this list and presented in class.

Initial_____

Parent
Signature_____ Date_____

Student
Signature_____ Date_____