



6th Grade Science

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Welcome to Holston Middle School, home of the Holston Hurricanes! I am excited to begin my 13th year as a Knox County school teacher. I want your child's experience in my class to be a rewarding and positive learning experience in which they will show growth regardless of their current ability level. Please utilize the Aspen Parent Portal as this is the best tool to use to keep track of your child's grades and progress, but please allow a few days for the system to update and display current averages. Grades can change daily, or weekly, depending on when they are entered and updated into the computer and the Parent Portal. Canvas is used for online assignments and Aspen is used for grades. Any grades displayed on Canvas will automatically be averaged and entered into Aspen. Email is the quickest way to get a response if you have further questions about your child's progress after checking the parent portal. Most days I am available by phone from 9:05 – 10:05. Parent/teacher conferences can be scheduled in advance on Mondays and Fridays also from 9:05-10:05. I look forward to working with you and your child for the 2017-2018 school year.

Course Description

The content for 6th Grade Science in Knox County is general science. There are five units taught in the order listed below. We follow the state curriculum science and teach SPI's (student performance indicators), which can be viewed at the following link: <http://knoxschools.org/cms/lib7/TN01917079/Centricity/Domain/1012/6th%20SPI%20Checklist.pdf> .

Pacing

| Unit Title | Topics Covered | Pacing |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Inquiry & Technology & Engineering | Parts and application of the scientific method, parts of an experiment, translating data into charts/tables/graphs, the engineering design process, bioengineering, and benefits, consequences of new technology | Completed in early October |
| Interdependence | Roles of organisms in ecosystems, transfer of energy in ecosystems, and characteristics of biomes and the organisms living in each | Completed early November |
| The Atmosphere | Types of heat transfer, cause of wind in the atmosphere, reasons for ocean currents, weather | Completed by Winter Break |
| Universe | Major components of the universe and the relative distance between objects in space | Completed in early March |
| | The reasons for days, years, & seasons, moon phases, tides, and eclipses | |
| Energy and Forces in Nature | Types of energy, how energy transfers | Completed by early April |
| | Electricity | |
| TCAP Review | TCAP Review | TCAP Week: End of April |

Materials Needed Daily

- Notebook paper and writing utensils will be needed daily. Students may write with *pencil, or blue/black pen only*.
- Students are to bring a folder the first week of school with pockets and prongs to leave in the classroom to organize their daily science quest. A 2- inch binder is also necessary to organize their daily work.
- Fully charged laptops need to be brought to class daily. We will use computers for parts of lessons whenever appropriate.
- School fees will cover any lab materials needed. Periodically throughout the year I may ask for donated items for certain activities. We use anything from aluminum foil to chocolate syrup in our labs.

Resources

- The majority of the work that students will be doing in my class is teacher created. The resource used in the creation of these materials is the textbook entitled: Holt Science & Technology for Grade Six.
- Students should use textbooks as a reference for all curriculum taught this year. Textbooks will be issued the first two weeks of school and sent home for student use on homework and review. Lost or damaged textbooks cost \$37.25 to replace.
- Instructional videos from the Holston Middle School library and Discovery Education will be shown periodically to enhance lessons, such as Bill Nye and Myth Busters videos. Parents will be notified if videos from outside the school library will be shown to students.

Grading Policy

Grades will be calculated based on a combination of two categories of assignments. Each category is explained below. **Please note that each category is weighted differently.**

Formative Assessments (40%)

- **Science Quest** – A daily question written on the board for students to copy and answer the first 3-5 minutes of class. It will cover previous content that was taught and/or content that will continue to be taught in that day's lesson. SQ focuses students on the objective or essential idea students are working toward understanding.
- **Daily Work/Homework**– Daily learning is assessed through written work that is turned in throughout the week. Work that is not finished in class is sent home for homework and expected back the following day.
- **Exit Tickets/Quizzes/Projects**– Exit tickets are short assessments of sub-objectives. Exit tickets and quizzes are given throughout the week to assess if students are mastering content prior to a test.

Summative Assessments (60%)

- **Unit and Benchmark Tests**– Unit and Benchmark tests are given periodically to assess student learning. Tests are weighted the most points as they are given at the end of a chapter or unit. Study guides are given to assist students in preparing for tests and require a parent signature to inform parents and give them an opportunity to work with their students and help them prepare.
- **Science Binder** – Binders are graded one to two times per grading period. Science binders stay in the classroom and are where notes and daily work are kept on a daily basis. They are organized daily by students and can significantly affect a student's grade if not kept organized. Students keep a table of contents and file the finished work in the folder. When a unit is completed or a folder is full, folders are turned in and graded. Each assignment in the folder (usually 20-25) is awarded points for completion and correct placement in the folder. This allows all student work to be viewed by the teacher and assists students in learning organization.
- **TCAP Scores**– New state regulations require that TCAP scores must count 10% of a students' average. This score will be entered in parent portal after the 2017-2018 scores are reported.

Make-Up Work

Per Knox County Schools, students are allowed 3 days to make up missed work after an excused absence from school. **Students are responsible for obtaining, completing, and turning in all make-up work.** There is a system organized in the classroom with specific instructions for students to follow to ensure they know what is expected for them to do following an absence.

Late Work

Late work is work that is not turned in on time, but NOT DUE TO AN ABSENCE. **Failure to complete work will result in a ten- point deduction each day. Parents/guardians will be contacted for those students that are not consistently completing homework or turning it in on the given due date.** Please check Aspen regularly with your child to help in the effort to continue to transition our students into more responsible students and ensure mastery of objectives.

Classroom Management

Students are expected to follow classroom rules as listed below. Behavior Tickets will be issued if a student chooses not to follow the rules below:

1. Please bring the following materials to class **every day**: paper, homework, laptop, pencil/pen (**must be blue or black ink ONLY if using pen**) & assignment notebook.
2. Please show respect to the teacher by paying attention, being on time, & following the teacher's FIRST request.
3. Please show respect to this classroom. Keep it clean, free from food, drink, **gum**, and graffiti.
4. Please treat others with respect and treat them as you would like to be treated.
5. Please follow all school rules in the Student Handbook on a daily basis.

Student Expectations

- Upon entering classroom, get your binder from the correct shelf and begin the daily Science Quest immediately. Answer the question yourself. Make sure your science folder and binder is placed back on the correct shelf in the classroom at the end of class unless you are taking it home to study. If you are taking it home to study make sure you bring it back to class the following day.
- Remain in your seat unless the "Open" sign in the classroom is displayed. Please use the classroom hand signals that are displayed in class if you need to a pencil, tissue, or need to take an emergency restroom break.
- Please come prepared for class every day.

- Please use your class breaks to visit the restroom.
- Please do not talk when the teacher is talking.
- Please try your best and use every minute for learning.

General Expectations

- **Norms:** Respect our school. Respect each other. Respect yourself.
- **Honor Code:** According to Harbrace Handbook, 15th Edition, “Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else’s ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been paraphrased.” Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students found guilty of plagiarism will have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time with a letter drop in the grade or earning a zero for the assignment. Parents should be involved in making that decision.
- **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend school unless they have an illness or are dealing with a serious family situation (example: death of a family member). Students are also expected to be on time for each class throughout the school day and not be tardy.

Safety

Science is a class which students will participate in laboratory activities. Most experiments will be completed in the regular classroom, although a science lab is also available if needed. Students will not come into contact with hazardous chemicals in 6th grade. Students must have a safety contract signed by a parent on file to be able to participate in lab activities. Students will be presented with safety rules and lab procedures in class the first two weeks of school. Students that do not follow rules and procedures in the science classroom will not participate in labs. The safety procedures for this course can be found in the safety contract that each student and guardian is responsible to read, sign, and return.

Religious Content Board Policy

- 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:
 - 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;
 - 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
- 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.

Please sign and date below AND on the safety contract (ON THE BACK), stating that you have read the information in the syllabus and safety contract. Please return this page only to Mrs.Bachmann by Friday, August 11th.

Student Name (printed): _____

Student Signature _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): _____

Parent Signature _____

Date: _____

Please complete your contact information should I need to speak to you during the school year. Also, please include the best time to contact you by phone.

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Best time of day: _____