

Sixth Grade Science Syllabus - Mrs. Williams' class 2019-20

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, energy, and earth & human activity. We will learn about some of the amazing things all around us that we take for granted Everyday!

Course Overview: The Knox County Sixth Grade Science Curriculum is organized into the following 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.

Textbook: Pearson Tennessee Interactive Science

Online Textbook Access: go to Pearson Realize website. Your username will be: Lower case [sstudent id #](mailto:sstudentid#@student.knoxschools.org)@student.knoxschools.org@kcs-tn

Ex: s123456@student.knoxschools.org@kcs-tn

Required Materials:

3 ring binder with 3-4 dividers
Loose leaf paper to put into the binder
Pencil, black pen, or regular blue pen

Optional Materials:

Color Ink pens, color pencils, crayons

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.

EXPECTATIONS

Be Respectful (of yourself, others, property; hands, feet, rude comments to yourself)

Be Responsible (do all assignments in a timely manner, do the right thing, even if others are choosing not to, or no one is watching, tell an adult if you or someone you notice needs help with something)

Be Reliable (honest, prepared, helpful, work hard, friendly)

Be Ready to Learn and Participate (in class on time, with required materials daily, paying attention to instruction, focus on classwork, etc)

ALWAYS GIVE YOUR BEST EFFORT IN EVERYTHING YOU DO. Have your agenda, science notebook, and textbook with you everyday for class

Grading: The Knox County grading scale will be used.

A: 100 - 93 B: 92 - 85 C: 84 - 75 D: 74 - 70 F: 69 and below

I grade on a weighted grading system, as follows:

55% Quizzes, Tests, Projects

45% Everything Else (classwork, homework, agenda, warm ups, notebooks)

Make Up Work: Attendance is an important aspect of success in class. Keep in mind that even if a student makes up classwork, he/she likely missed important discussions or in class activities that cannot be made up, just excused from those. If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to obtain the missed work. In my class, if it is a day of the current week, students have been informed where to get that day's make up work (bins attached to black football cabinet). Students have the same number of days missed to make up the work. If your child is absent more than three days, you may request to pick up work in the office; however I would probably need a 24 hour notice.

Homework: In science class, homework will consist mainly of completing a classwork assignment that your child did not finish in class. That should not happen too often. Notebook assignments (?’s, sum., left sides) are the most common homework assignments. However students should study Science notes regularly to be more successful on quizzes, tests, etc.

Cheating or Copying: There is a distinct difference in helping someone with an assignment, and giving another student the answers. Any student caught cheating (whether it be copying the answers off another student’s paper, or allowing another student to copy his/her work) will receive a zero on the assignment and a referral will be sent home for a parent to sign and return.

Forgery: Signing someone else’s name is forgery, which is an office referral.

Supplementary Resources: BBC Planet Earth, Life and Blue Planet DVDs, Eyewitness and Discovery Videos, United Streaming videos and clips, Discovery Education, Brain Pop, Study Jam, October Sky, Relevant YouTube videos and clips, various other relevant videos, Eight Below (when studying biomes) various reference books in the classroom and library, various scientific internet websites, various periodicals, Kahoot game, etc.

If you do not approve of a specific resource listed in this syllabus, please make a request, in writing, to me and I will provide an alternate assignment for your child. The request should state your name, your child’s name, the specific activity in which you do not want your child to participate. If willing, the nature of your objection may help me in finding an appropriate alternate assignment.

District information on the subject of religion:

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.

Communication: Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Open communication is essential to your child's success!

Email: amy.williams@knoxschools.org

My Remind 101: Enter this number *for the number you are texting:* **81010**

Type this in as the message: **@lsunsaints**

I am SO excited to be your child's teacher and want to do whatever I can to keep your child happy and safe!

DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED, BUT NOT EXPECTED!!

If you can send in **ANY** of the following **ANY time of the year**, please do!

*****Candy, Individual Snacks**, Non soft drink drinks, anything your child would like to earn for rewards (some kids have mentioned are Takis, Sour Patch Kids).

If you could even donate/purchase gift certificates for ANY amount to:

TeachersPayTeachers.com in my name for use with my planning. This helps with finding/getting more fun, exciting/creative specific skills activities/materials, etc. I CANNOT accept cash donations, it would be best if anyone is able, to do it straight through the site.

Current Science subscription for a class set is another thing I would love to be able to share with my students. It shows how science is a cool part of our everyday lives!

Sincerely,
Amy Williams

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

Sixth Grade Syllabus Check-Off and Return Sheet

Below is a list of the information that you should have received from your student. Please review the list and mark each section accordingly.

I have received a copy of the Sixth Grade Syllabus that explained: textbook, student materials, expectations, 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 Name (Print Please) _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date _____

Student Name/Signature _____

Date _____

Module 1: Energy - includes different types of energy and energy transformations.

Module 2: Ecosystems - includes interactions among organisms, energy transfers, biomes, and impacts on environments.

Module 3: Earth Systems - includes ocean currents, convection, water cycle, weather, and weather predictions.

Module 4: Earth and Human Activity - includes earth's resources, alternative energy sources, and human impacts on the earth.

Module 5: Unity and Diversity - includes biodiversity in ecosystems

***** Embedded throughout the year: Engineering and Technology, requiring students to design and test solutions.***

Textbook: Pearson Tennessee Interactive Science

Required Materials:

3 ring binder with 3-4 dividers
Loose leaf paper to put into the binder
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Optional Materials

Color Ink pens, color pencils,
crayons

EXPECTATIONS

Be Respectful (of yourself, others, property; hands, feet, rude comments to yourself)

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Be Reliable (honest, prepared, helpful, work hard, friendly)

Be Ready to Learn and Participate (in class on time, with required materials daily, paying attention to instruction, focus on classwork, etc)

ALWAYS GIVE YOUR BEST EFFORT IN EVERYTHING YOU DO!

Have your agenda, science notebook, and textbook with you everyday for class.

Behavior Policy: In order to maximize instruction and maintain a quality learning environment for all students, it is imperative that the classroom expectations are met. The following behavior policy will be implemented to ensure maximum learning!

Students will earn small rewards for outstanding choices behaviorally and academically, but will be issued on a random basis. Not every kid that is making outstanding choices everyday will get a reward, but if your child keeps making outstanding choices everyday, your child will get rewarded at times. The rewards range from verbal praise, to work displayed on the “All Star Board”, small snacks or candy, non soft drink drinks, or even passes to use in my classroom.

When expectations are not followed, the following list of consequences will be implemented:

Offense	Consequence
1st	Student conference and Parent contact
2nd	Parent Contact
3rd	Silent lunch and Parent Contact
4th	Cross Team Isolation for class period/Parent Contact/Restorative Conference with RLC teacher
5th	RLC periods during related arts classes/Parent Contact/Restorative Conference with counselor
6th	Office Referral/Restorative Conference with RLC teacher/After School detention
7th	Office Referral/1 day RLC

More severe infractions (such as threats, abusive language, destruction of property, etc) will be an automatic office referral.

Grading: The Knox County grading scale will be used.

A: 100 - 93 B: 92 - 85 C: 84 - 75 D: 74 - 70 F: 69 and below

I grade on a weighted grading system, as follows:

60% Quizzes, Tests, Projects

40% Everything Else (classwork, homework, agenda, warm ups, notebooks)

Extra Help: Extra Help will be available during homeroom each morning, and during Panther Pause on science day (Thursdays as of now, subject to change)

Make Up Work: Attendance is an important aspect of success in class. Keep in mind that even if a student makes up classwork, he/she likely missed important discussions or in class activities that cannot be made up, just excused from those. If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to obtain the missed work. In my class, if it is a day of the current week, students have been informed where to get that day's make up work (bins attached to black football cabinet). Students have the same number of days missed to make up the work. If your child is absent more than three days, you may request to pick up work in the office; however I would probably need a 24 hour notice.

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Missing Work: Assignments should be turned in on time! All late work, turned in 1-10 days late will have a 10% penalty. Any work turned in after 10 days will receive a 0. The consequences below outline the consequences below will be used for each missing assignment in a 9 week period.

1-2 missing assignments per 9 weeks: Teacher conference with student.

- 3-4 Work Habits reflection assignment, silent lunch, discipline log
- 5 - Conference with school counselor to discuss the issue.
- 6 or more - Office Referral

Cheating or Copying: There is a distinct difference in helping someone with an assignment, and giving another student the answers. Any student caught cheating (whether it be copying the answers off another student's paper, or allowing another student to copy his/her work) will receive a zero on the assignment and a referral will be sent home for a parent to sign and return.

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Communication: Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Open communication is essential to your child's success! You will get log in information for our Aspen software. This will allow you to view your student's grades and assignments.

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If you could even donate/purchase gift for ANY amount to:

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Please sign and return this page to indicate that you have read and understand all the policies outlined in this science syllabus.

Student Name: _____

Class Period _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

Your preferred method of communication: _____

Please sign and return this page to indicate that you have read and understand all the policies outlined in this science syllabus.

Student Name: _____

Class Period _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

Your preferred method of communication: _____