

Mr. Brand, Mrs. Clemmons, and Mrs. Price

Earth and Space Science

Liberty Middle School

Madison, AL



Welcome to 6th Grade Science!

The important thing is to not stop questioning. -Albert Einstein

Classroom Goals

- To create a classroom environment where all students feel welcomed and respected.
- To challenge students to explore, discover, experience, and attempt the amazing.
- To help each student develop a lifelong love of learning.
- To inspire students to do their best work and push the boundaries of their own expectations.

Units of Study

Our Changing Land
Weather and Climate

Rocks & Fossil Record
Plate Tectonics

Sun-Earth-Moon System
Planetary Systems

Science Skills

- Challenge students to discover their world, their planet, and Earth's place in the universe.
- Provide opportunities to learn important facts and build conceptual understanding of science.
- Provide practice in reading and interpreting tables, charts, graphs, and detailed illustrations.
- Develop critical thinking skills and problem-solving abilities through inquiry-based instruction.
- Develop scientific literacy and communication skills.

Scientific & Engineering Practices

- ✓ Asking questions (science) and defining problems (engineering)
- ✓ Developing and using models
- ✓ Planning and carrying out investigations
- ✓ Analyzing and interpreting data
- ✓ Using mathematics and computational thinking
- ✓ Constructing explanations (science) and designing solutions (engineering)
- ✓ Engaging in argument from evidence
- ✓ Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

Reading/Writing Across the Curriculum

- Our science instruction will include the CCR Reading and Writing Standards for Literacy in Science. Language Arts instruction will focus on expository/nonfiction reading and writing in the content areas.
- Note: Students are expected to practice and apply ELA skills in science. Including but not limited to:
 - Close readings
 - Citing textual evidence
 - Summarizing text
 - Determining the meaning of words & phrases
 - Integrating visual graphics with text
 - Distinguishing between fact and opinion

Grading Policy

Tests/Projects	60 %
Daily Assignments	40 %

LMS Testing Days	
Monday and Thursday	Electives
Wednesday and Friday	Science and Math
Tuesday and Thursday	Social Studies and ELA

Homework: Homework will be assigned on an as-needed basis. Any unfinished classwork should be finished as homework.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given periodically. These will count as daily grades.

Tests: Tests will be given at the end of each unit and will be announced in advance.

Test Preparation: Students are encouraged to review concepts and key terms/people as we cover them in class.

Graded Papers: Graded papers will be given to students as they are graded. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with graded papers to use for test review. Parents may be asked to sign and return any test that receives a failing grade. Test questions will not be sent home, but parents may request to schedule an appointment to view specific tests.

Missing/Late Work

- Students are expected to take responsibility for their own school work. This includes completing assignments and turning them in on time.
- Late work will be accepted with points deducted from overall grade. After the unit test, only 50% credit can be earned.
- Note: All unfinished classwork will be due the next school day.
- If a student habitually turns in late work, a parent conference may be requested.

Curriculum

- There is not an assigned textbook for this class. We will be using both AMSTI and STEMScopes curriculum.

- **Students will be expected to create a self-made textbook using their notes and handouts in a composition notebook. It is their responsibility to get any missing notes or handouts due to an absence or other reason.**
- Please note: Your child's composition books are an important part of our classroom instruction. Please encourage your child to take pride in their notebooks. They should be complete, neat, and useful study tools. Composition books should be returned each day as we will be using them in class daily.

Student Project Expectations

Purpose:

- To extend learning outside the classroom
- To provide students with choice and enrichment opportunities

Guidelines:

- Student work, not parent work
- Written in student's own words and all resources cited
- Creativity and "thinking outside the box" is encouraged
- Time and personal effort will be rewarded

Digital Devices

- The Technology Usage Policy that all students and parents sign each year applies to, but is not limited to, all digital devices, storage devices/media, and digital content.
- Students are under the same guidelines with personal digital devices as they are when using computers and other digital devices at school. Students are subject to disciplinary action for misuse of any digital device.
- Students are expected to use devices only for reading and academic purposes upon teacher discretion. Screens must be visible at all times.

Conferences

- I believe in a strong parent-teacher partnership. I will be glad to discuss your child's needs and progress. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions you may have, or simply email me if you would like to schedule a parent conference.

Contact Information

- The best way to contact us is through email. You may also send a note with your child. Our email addresses are: jjbrand@madisoncity.k12.al.us, bcllemmons@madisoncity.k12.al.us, or kprice@madisoncity.k12.al.us. Please email your child's teacher as this is a common syllabus for the 6th Grade science department.

Classroom Expectations

- ✓ Be respectful. Respect your teacher, your classmates, and yourselves.
Take care of classroom equipment and supplies.
- ✓ Be responsible. Take responsibility for your work and actions. Have all materials,
supplies, and homework for class.
- ✓ Be safe. Follow all directions and lab safety rules.

Food and Drink:

- No food or gum is allowed in the classroom.
- All bottles and food need to be thrown away in the hallway.
- Students may have a water bottle in class.
- Please do not bring PEANUT PRODUCTS into the classroom.

Cell Phones & Other Personal Devices:

- In order to maximize student learning and focus on science instruction, cell phone use is limited only to academic purposes in the classroom. Students are expected to put away their cell phones or personal devices before entering the classroom.

The following policy will be used to monitor cell phone use in the classroom.

- Red Zone – all cell phones and personal devices must be off and in backpack or purse; this is our standard zone unless otherwise specified.
- Yellow Zone – individual students may use device with teacher permission for specific purposes. A yellow device card will be provided to student to signify permission granted.
- Green Zone – all students may use their personal devices for specific academic purposes.
- Students who have their phones out without expressed permission will be asked to place their phone in a designated area in the classroom until the dismissal bell. If cell phones become an issue, the non-compliant student will be sent to administration.

Consequences for Noncompliance:

Warning / Sign Behavior Binder
Detention (Break or Lunch)
LMS Detention (Before/After School)
Office Referral

Note: The teacher reserves the right to apply any of the preceding consequences as deemed appropriate. Certain offences may warrant immediate office referral. Parents will be notified for office referrals, after school detention, or upon teacher discretion.

Please detach and return this page.

SIXTH GRADE SCIENCE

I have read and agree to the terms within the course syllabus and classroom guidelines for LMS Sixth Grade Science.

Student Name: _____ Block: _____

Student Signature

Date

Parent Name(s): _____

Parent Signature

Date

Email Address: _____

Please print neatly 😊

Please use the following space to share anything about your child that you would like for me to know.