



# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

## ~MMS~



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**Instructor** - Dawn McCullough

**Contact Information** - Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this class or your child's progress. I recommend sending me an email as it is checked frequently. I will respond to all communications as soon as possible.

- Email: [DMcCullough@tvusd.us](mailto:DMcCullough@tvusd.us)
- Telephone: 951-695-7370 ext. 4042

**Course Description** - The state of California has developed a research-based set of standards called the Next Generation Science Standards or NGSS. The Temecula Valley Unified School District will be implementing the integrated version of these standards at the middle school level. This means that the content at all grade levels will include a combination of Biology, Earth Science, Physics, and Chemistry. A link to the Next Generation Science Standards can be found on my website if you would like to review them.

**Course Materials** - I am very excited about our opportunity to pilot textbook and curriculum materials this year in order to help our district choose the materials that best meet the new standards and provide quality support and learning opportunities for our students. The district asked that I share the following statement regarding the pilot process:

This year, TVUSD began a textbook adoption process for our Middle School Science courses. Your student is enrolled in a class that will be using two different textbooks and sets of resources throughout this semester. The two publishing companies of the textbooks being considered are *Discovery* (August - October) and *TCI* (October - December). These materials allow our teachers to utilize multimedia resources that are content-rich and aligned with our state's Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The scope, sequence, and science frameworks will remain consistent with the other grade-level courses. Each unit taught will complement the strong instruction and successful learning outcomes that are already embedded in our TVUSD courses and classrooms. We are excited about this opportunity for our students, teachers, and district and thank you for your support as we continue to embark on this journey.

**Course Grade** - The following grade categories and scale will determine the overall grade earned in this course:

<b><u>Weighted Grade Categories</u></b>	
Assessments	= 45%
Labs	= 45%
Class Work/Homework	= 10%

- **Assessments**: This category includes unit tests, quizzes, and projects. Re-takes are allowed on unit tests only. The maximum grade a student can earn on a re-take is 85%.
- **Labs**: Labs are to be turned in on time. The due date will always allow for an opportunity to see me during intervention if help is needed. If a lab needs to be re-done only half of the points missed can be earned back.

### **Lab Safety**

Laboratory activities play an important role in mastering science concepts. Many of these activities will require the use of chemicals and/or equipment that could be harmful if not used properly. Prior to each lab we will review all safety precautions that apply to the activity. It is vital that these rules are understood and followed. A *Flinn Safety Contract* will be sent home on the first day of school. Please review it, fill it out completely and return it the following day. Lab safety will be taught in class throughout the year and a safety test must be passed with a grade of 90% or better before full participation in labs will be allowed. Lab activities will be graded on their write up as well as their demonstration of proper lab techniques and safety skills.

**Inappropriate behavior can result in the lowering of a lab grade.**

- **Class Work/Homework**: This category contributes to a student's letter grade in addition to a "Work Habit" grade. The percent earned in this category will be used to determine the "Work Habit" grade as follows:

<b><u>Work Habit Grade Scale (work completion %)</u></b>	
O (Outstanding)	= 87% - 100%
S (Satisfactory)	= 73% - 86%
N (Needs Improvement)	= 63% - 72%
U (Unsatisfactory)	= Less than 63%

- **Extra Credit**: Challenge questions are offered on most unit assessments. This is the only form of extra credit that is offered in this course.

## How to stay informed -

**1) Grades:** Grades will be posted online through Infinite Campus and updated as assessments are taken. Class Work and Homework will be recorded on a pink work record that each student will keep in their Science folder. These grades are only entered online at the end of each unit as one large unit grade for the category. The last day to make up any of these assignments is the day of the unit test. I highly recommend that you check the pink work record and Infinite Campus regularly to stay informed about your student's progress.

**2) Remind:** Sign up to receive quick updates and reminders from me throughout the school year via text. I will notify you of upcoming quizzes, tests & projects as well let you know when grades have been updated online. Follow the steps below to sign up to receive these messages:

- Text Message: Text @94h627 to 81010  
OR
- Follow the instructions on this link: <https://www.remind.com/join/94h627>

**\*Detailed instructions are included at the end of this document.**

**3) Website:** Most of the information you may need can be found on my website. I post homework and other assignments daily. You will also find Journal entries and links for the pilot material. You can access this anytime through the Margarita Homepage.

I look forward to meeting you. Together we can make this a successful year for your son/daughter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dawn McCullough