



# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Earth Science Course Syllabus Mrs. Lanham



## Course Description:

Science consists of a way of thinking and investigating, as well as a growing body of knowledge about the natural world. The relationship between science, our environment, and our everyday world is crucial to each student's success. In order to better understand this relationship, the overall goal of the earth science curriculum this year is to provide students with the knowledge and skills for proficiency in science at the sixth grade level. The middle school earth science course is designed to give all students an overview of common strands in earth science including, but not limited to, meteorology, geology, astronomy, oceanography, energy resources, and human impact on the earth. In order to facilitate this learning for our students, units have been developed according to the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS).

## Course Outline:

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Earth science curriculum includes, but is not limited to the following concepts:

Tentative Dates	Unit Descriptions
August – September	<b>Rocks and Minerals:</b> Students will conduct investigations to identify various minerals and rocks, which are both referred to as Earth's natural resources.
October – November	<b>Weathering, Erosion, and Deposition:</b> Students will explore that earth processes such as weathering, erosion, deposition, and human activity affect the shape of the land. Students will actively examine various types of soil and understand that soil is composed of weathered rock and organic matter; a natural resource that must be monitored, managed, and protected.
November – December	<b>Plate Tectonics:</b> Students will recognize that the theory of plate tectonics explains the formation of many of Earth's continental and ocean features as well as geologic events, such as volcanoes and earthquakes.
January – February	<b>Weather and Atmosphere:</b> Students will realize that the movement of the Earth and unequal heating of its surface cause weather patterns and events. In addition, students will understand that oceans are important sources of water, energy, and minerals.
March-April	<b>Earth in Space:</b> Students will discover that many common observations, such as seasons, eclipses, and lunar phases, are caused by interactions between the Sun, Earth, and moon.
April – May	<b>Exploring the Solar System:</b> Students will research the theories behind the origin of the universe. In addition, the students will review that the universe is made up stars and galaxies, and within our galaxy are planets and their moons, comets, meteoroids, asteroids, and the sun, which makes up our solar system.

*\*\* Please be aware that our progress through each unit will be determined by student understanding. \*\**

## Materials:

Our study of Earth Science will be a wonderful and exciting journey! As with any journey, it is important to prepare. Here are the items needed for science:

- Textbooks and/or textbooks on CD will be issued. The textbook or CD checked out by the student will need to stay at home until the end of the year. I will have a class set of textbooks in my room that students will have access to for class work assignments. The at-home textbook or CD will need to be returned before the end of the school year or the replacement cost is around \$67.50 for the textbook and \$10 for the CD.
- Notebooks are kept on a daily basis. This notebook will serve as the student's "textbook". Notebooks are expected to be organized, completed, and in chronological order.
- Suggested supply list: A 2 or 3 inch binder, pencil pouch, pencils, small pencil sharpener with cover, blue or black pens, paper, colored pencils or crayons, highlighters, clear sheet protectors, ruler, and his/her agenda every day in class. **Keeping an agenda is very imperative for success.**

## Grading Policy:

As defined by a sixth grade policy for science classes, grades for each semester will be calculated using the following percentages-

- 26.7% - Competency 1 Astronomy
- 26.7% - Competency 2 – Hydrology & Meteorology
- 26.6% - Competency 3 - Geology
- 20% - Final Exam (includes class work assignments, homework assignments, notebook checks, lab work, written reflections/journal entries, analysis questions, warm-ups, etc.)

\*Please refer to the Henry County Handbook for further explanation of the grading policy, which is found on pp. 5-8

\*Use Infinite Campus to check for updated grades on a weekly basis.

## **Classroom Rules and Discipline Procedures:**

Students are expected to observe all school and county rules (handbook) regarding behavior, conduct and dress code.

Citation 1: Warning/Parent Notification on grid

Citation 2: Parent Notification/Silent Lunch

Citation 3: Parent Phone Call/On-Team ISS with Behavior Reflection

Citation 4: Off Team suspension/parent contact

Citation 5: Office referral to Mr. Toliver

An excessive amount of class disruptive behavior may result in insubordination for not following the county guidelines or classroom rules. You will be contacted if this becomes a concern.

## **Activities/ Projects/Performance Tasks:**

We will be performing a number of activities in science this year. Most of the activities in class will require students to collaborate with a partner or in small groups. Occasionally, students will have at-home projects to complete. At the same time, please be aware that students are allowed an adequate amount of time to complete these assigned projects. There will be announcements for upcoming projects and due dates either found on the project sheet sent home and/or in the student's agenda. You cannot expect to accomplish what you should from this course without spending time with science outside of class. As well as completing homework assignments, you need to stay organized, spend time reviewing notes and class work assignments, carefully reflect on activities or labs completed in class, etc. It may be imperative to use the weekends for studying, working on projects, reviewing, organizing, or simply getting caught up with any work.

## **Homework/Make-Up Work Policy:**

Homework is designed to enable students to assess their own knowledge of a given topic, and it is helpful for a student to learn. Students will receive weekly homework. Homework will always be assigned on Mondays and will be due on Thursdays or Fridays (Schedule depending). Homework can also consist of completing an unfinished assignment or reviewing work previously completed to increase understanding. In my class, students will always have homework, but it may not always be "written" homework. I believe that it is crucial for sixth graders to begin developing good study habits, so your child's homework for the night will also include studying or organizing their own notebooks. Just to clarify, your child should always have an assignment written down in their agendas for science homework. Having "No Homework" written in the agenda for science is UNACCEPTABLE.

**When a student is absent**, he/she is responsible for completing all missed assignments. After returning to school, the student will have the same number of days as absent to complete and turn in the missing assignments. It is the student's responsibility to ask for, complete, and turn in all make up work.

## **Tutoring:**

Students can attend morning tutoring from 7:30-8:30 in the computer lab located on the connections hall.

## **My Website:**

In order to help parents and students, I update my website with notes, homework, and class work assignments. You will need to do the following to access this webpage:

1. Go to <http://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/oms>
2. Click on "Teachers" found at the top of the page.
3. Find the teacher's name (alphabetical order) and click on his/her name.
4. On the left hand column of their webpage, you will find numerous links that should make this year easier.

## **Remind 101:**

With such advanced technology in the world today, we try to utilize it in as many ways as possible. One major way we use technology is through a FREE text messaging service called Remind 101. This serves as a one way texting line of communication. Periodically through the week I will send out mass texts to the students and parents reminding them when projects, homework, money, and other various assignments are due.

**How to Sign Up:** For you or your child's appropriate class, text the following code to

Phone #: 81010

2<sup>nd</sup> period: @lanham02

3<sup>rd</sup> period: @lanham03

4<sup>th</sup> period: @lanham04

5<sup>th</sup> period: @lanham05

## **Contact Information:**

My planning time is from 2:30 until 4:00 each day. I am available to return phone calls on most days during my planning time. The front office staff will be glad to take a message, and I will return your phone call as soon as possible. The most efficient way to get in touch with me during the day will be through email.

School Phone #: 770-288-2108 e-mail: [rebecca.lanham@henry.k12.ga.us](mailto:rebecca.lanham@henry.k12.ga.us)

I am looking forward to a wonderful year, and I wish to thank you in advance for sharing your child with me this year!!