



6th Grade Gifted Accelerated Science Syllabus

We are all in this together!

Instructor: Amy Middleton
Email: amiddlet@pasco.k12.fl.us
Room: Portable 12
Text: Savaas: Elevate/Science
Planning Period: 5th (12:07-12:57 p.m.)
Lunch: 10:50 – 11:20 a.m.
School Telephone: (813) 346-1200

Be Responsible
Be a Problem-Solver
Be Respectful

Course Description: Students will explore laboratory investigations that include the use of scientific inquiry, research, measurement, problem-solving, laboratory apparatus and technologies, experimental procedures, and safety procedures that are an integral part of this course. The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) recommends that at the middle school level, all students should have multiple opportunities every week to explore science laboratory investigations. School laboratory investigations are defined by the National Research Council (NRC) as an experience in a laboratory, classroom, or a field that provides students with opportunities to interact directly with natural phenomena or with data collected by others using tools, materials, data collection techniques, and models. Laboratory investigations in the middle school classroom should help all students develop a growing understanding of the complexity and ambiguity of empirical work, as well as the skills to calibrate and troubleshoot equipment used to make observations. Learners should understand measurement error and have the skills to aggregate, interpret, and present the resulting data.

Course Outline: (The following is a tentative outline)

Semester 1	Quarter 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Earth's Spheres</i> ● <i>Heat/Global Patterns</i> ● <i>Weather & Climate</i> ● <i>Shaping Earth's Surface</i> 	Quarter 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Pasco Science & Engineering Showcase</i> ● <i>Energy Transfer & Motion</i> ● <i>Types of Forces & Gravity</i> ● <i>Atomic Theory</i>
Semester 2	Quarter 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Properties of Matter</i> ● <i>Conservation of Mass</i> ● <i>Compounds of the Periodic Table</i> 	Quarter 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Cells</i> ● <i>Body Systems & Infectious Agents</i> ● <i>Classification</i>

****Per Board Policy- 2240 - CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES**

The Board recognizes that a course of study or certain instructional materials may contain content and/or activities that some parents find objectionable. If after careful, personal review of the program lessons and/or materials, a parent indicates to the school that either the content or the activity conflicts with his religious beliefs or value system, the school will consider a written request for his child to be excused from a particular class for specified reasons. The student, however, will not be excused from participating in the course and will be provided alternate learning activities during times of such parent requested absences.

Grading Policy:

- ❖ 50% in class assignments
- ❖ 50% quizzes, tests, projects, assessments

Grading Scale:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

Proficiency of Curriculum:

90-100%	(Mastered)
70-89%	(Proficient)
59-69%	(Partial Knowledge)
0-49%	(Lack of Mastery)

Homework: Homework will be assigned periodically as needed and as it supports what students are learning. If there is no formal assignment, you are expected to complete any incomplete class assignments and review your notes.

MyLearning: Assignments from class are posted in myLearning. Students who are absent from class or would like to review any material should check myLearning to access these assignments. Students will also submit work through myLearning, can view feedback on assignments, and their grades on their work. Students will be able to check the gradebook to view anything that may be missing or need review. Formal grades are posted on myStudent and will be synced from myLearning once a week.

Assignments & Policies

Notebook: Students will keep an interactive notebook that will contain all notes, classwork, and assignments. Students should bring their notebook to class every day. Students will use the notebook to help them study and build their knowledge as they work toward mastery of the science standards. It will be a valuable asset.

Labs: Always obey safety rules in the lab. Labs are a privilege and students not following safety rules will not participate in labs. Labs are a great way for students to gain hands-on experience in exploring science concepts.

Make-up Work Policy: Make-up work is defined as work missed during an excused absence. Students have two class days for each day missed (if excused) to request and make up work. Exceptions may be made for extended excused absences. After the excused extension time, all work not turned in falls under the "Late Work" policy. Students may check their myLearning for assignments to complete at home in the event that they are absent.

Late Work Policy: Late work is considered work turned in after the assignment is due. When assignments are to be turned in, they are to be turned in at the *beginning* of class, otherwise *it is considered late*. Assignments are due upon their assigned due date. Late work will be accepted for up to two weeks, or the end of the quarter, for the first semester and up to one week, or the end of the quarter, for the second semester.

Electronic Policy: Electronic devices will be used only with teacher permission for academics. **Students are encouraged to bring devices and headphones** this year to minimize the amount of paper assignments needed. Students should adhere to the school's expectations of appropriate use of electronics.

Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism, the unacknowledged use of other writer's words or ideas, is a serious offense. Any work submitted which the student *has not individually written in their own words*, or which is not properly and fully documented will receive a zero grade. This offense will also be referred to administration for further disciplinary review.

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating will not be tolerated. First offence will result in a zero for the assignment. The second offence will result in a referral, and the student may or may not retake the assignment based on teacher discretion. ****Academic Integrity defines you as a student. Students are expected to fully contribute to group activities. Individual assignments must be individual ideas.**

Student Rules and Behavioral Expectations: Students are expected to follow the Pasco County Schools code of conduct as outlined in the Rushe planner on MyLearning. Please review the expectations with your student.

Behavior interventions are as follows for less offensive infractions (more offensive infractions will be handled by administration):

- 1st offense – verbal warning, reteach expectations
- 2nd offense – parent contact
- 3rd offense – lunch detention
- 4th offense – after-school detention (to be served on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 2:00 – 2:30 p.m.)
- 5th offense – Discipline Referral

All students should bring the following materials everyday:

1. Composition/Interactive Notebook
2. Highlighter
3. Writing utensil (pencil or pen) and sharpener
4. Crayons
5. Glue stick
6. Scissors

I look forward to working with each and every one of you this year in order to prepare you for your future endeavors as a productive member of society. We will spend a little time each day preparing you to become critical thinkers, which is a skill that transcends all occupations.

Sincerely,

Miss Middleton