



6th Grade Basic/Advanced/Gifted Science Syllabus

We are all-in...every minute... every class...every student...every day!

Instructor: Ms. Aursland

Email: kaurslan@pasco.k12.fl.us

Room: 305

Text: Pearson: Elevate/Science

Planning Period: 2nd (12:07 – 1:00 p.m.)

Lunch: 9:48 – 10:18 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)

Quarter 1:

- *Practice of Scientific Knowledge: (8 days)*
- *Properties of Matter/Atomic Theory: (10 days)*
- *Properties of Matter/Weight, Mass, Density
Physical Properties (12 days)*
- *Laws of Conservation of Mass/Physical &
Chemical Changes (12 days)*

Quarter 2:

- *Periodic Table/Compounds (15 days)*
- *Matter & Energy Transformations
Photosynthesis/Cellular Respiration (10 days)*
- *Carbon Cycle & Law of Conservation of Mass/Energy (10 days)*
- *Earth in Space & Time: Stars/Distances/Galaxies/universe (10 days)*

Quarter 3:

- *Earth in Space: Properties/Heliocentric &
Geocentric Models (20 days)*
- *Earth in Space: Seasons, Phases,
Tides, Eclipses (10 days)*
- *Earth in Space: Electromagnetic Spectrum &
Planetary Images (8 days)*

Quarter 4:

- *Earth in Space: Technology &
Space Exploration (15 days)*
- *Science Society: Impact of Science on
Political, social and economic issues (10 days)*

Grading Policy:

- ❖ 30% Formative (comprehension checks, homework, class assignments)
- ❖ 70% Summative (Chapter tests, common assessments, projects/labs or lab write-up's)

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)
50-69%	(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 review/rewrite your notes for a minimum of 20 minutes per day. Students are responsible for keeping up with recording homework, due dates, and quizzes/tests in their planners (please see planner board on the side of the room). Also, check My On-Line Learning for upcoming assignments to help with organization and time management. If students are unable to participate in the following day's activities due to incomplete homework, they will have to complete the incomplete homework, as well as any and all class activities missed, either during lunch, AIR time or at home.

Assignments & Policies

Tests & Quizzes: There will be periodic tests and quizzes, which will consist of fill-in the blank, essay, multiply choice and/or true and false. The policy for retakes requires that the student complete teacher-determined tutoring, and has completed all missing assignments leading up to original assessments. Students will earn the highest grade obtained. Semester and EOC Exams are excluded from this policy.

Notebook: Students are to keep an interactive notebook that contains all Cornell notes, scales, and certain assignments that aid in mastering the information. Students can and will use this to help study and build their knowledge towards science standards. It will be a valuable asset. This is to be brought to class *daily*.

Labs: Always obey safety rules in the lab. Sinks are only to be used for laboratory purposes. Students not following safety rules will be removed from the lab; they will receive a zero on the assignment. Students are responsible to clean-up their area at the end of each lab. Labs will be made up after school with prior arrangement. Student will have to notify teacher at least 24 hours in advance.

Class Work: Students are expected to complete work and put into notebook, complete and upload into My On-Line Learning, or sent to Ms. Aursland (when requested). The notebook can be used to study for quizzes, test and end of semester county exam. ***If you are a student on My On-Line Learning, you may be exempt from certain assignments as they do not apply to you, but to another student or students, who are in advanced or Gifted.***

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.

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 to the appropriate bin at the **beginning** of class, otherwise **it is considered late**. Assignments are due upon their assigned due date. Late work will not be accepted after the unit test. There will be a 20% deduction of earned points per day on late assignments (20% per day).

- ☞ It is the students' responsibility to acquire any missed assignments from the designated area (*sideboard calendar and files*).
- ☞ It is the students' responsibility to get teacher directions or assignment explanations on their own time (before, during AIR time, after school, or during lunch), **not during instruction**.
- ☞ If excused, any labs/in-class projects or assessments missed will result in an alternate assignment/assessment being completed.

Attendance/Tardy Policy: Students are expected to follow the school-wide attendance policy. Excused absences guarantee students the right to make up assignments for full credit of what they earn within a reasonable timeframe (two days for each day missed). Students must be present in class daily (including on-line/zoom). If you are a student that has science on-line, you are expected to be on time, and on line, for the duration of the class.

Electronic Policy: Electronic devices may be used only with teacher permission for academics (**GREEN**: respectful, school appropriate - listening to music. **YELLOW**: academic use only - notes, research: **RED**, no electronics at all. Failure to follow teacher direction has three (3) consequences:

- *1st - verbal warning, reteach expectations
- *2nd - device will be put in teacher drawer and returned at end of class (first occurrence; each occurrence after, student will pick up device in the office after the school day.
- *3rd the student will receive an electronic referral under defiance of authority. No headphones in class unless teacher has determined that class will be on yellow or green. Do not enter class with headphones or ear buds on, do not have them dangling from ears.

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 (this includes talking during testing). The second offence will result in a referral, and student may or may not retake assigned 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
- 5th offense – Discipline Referral

CLASSROOM Policies/Procedure

Bathroom Passes

Students will scan the QR Code when going to the restroom during class. **Only** one person at a time may utilize the restroom. If you leave and do not scan code/sign out, that is leaving the class without permission and subject to a consequence.

Language

Students will conduct themselves as responsible and respectful citizens in class, as they would in public. Profanity, sexual overtones, and racial or prejudice comments are not acceptable, and not be used in class or on school campus, and is subject to disciplinary action.

School Property

Please respect personal property and the property of the school. Do not write on desks, tables, books or walls. Also, please put all supplies back after usage, and clean up work area. Because of the Pandemic, students will supply their own classroom items, such as scissors, highlighters, pencils, colored pencils, ruler, glue stick and notebook.

Citizenship

Respect others' opinions, and be courteous when someone is expressing their answers, ideas or interpretations. At times, students will work in cooperative groups, and will be expected to work respectfully and productively with their classmates. Only one person at a time should be speaking, and please raise your hand if you have a question or comment. This also includes personal space and seat assignments. The classroom is a community, and it is vital that every student conduct himself or herself as a productive community member contributing in a positive manner.

Classroom Routines

Upon entering class, students will complete the Do-now assignment. Students will also be expected to work bell to bell. Grooming will be done outside of the classroom. Book bags/purses are to be off tables and/or desks at all times, as well as keeping walkways clear. Students will follow the Pasco County Schools code of conduct found in the student planner. Daily work will be recorded on the assignment calendar on the side board, with additional resources for absences in the daily hanging folders (see teacher for this). All assignments will be turned in electronically.

COVID Safety Procedures/SOAR

All students will be expected to adhere to the SOAR Guidelines (below) in order to try and keep our learning environment and each other safe due to the COVID pandemic. You will also have assigned seats in all classrooms as well as the cafeteria. Masks must be worn (**covers nose and mouth**) in class at all times, and must meet dress code standards. Students are not to congregate close together or in groups. You must also follow the arrows in the hallways for the correction direction to follow.

Socially Distancing

One-way Hallways

Applying Proper Hygiene Practices

Respecting Mask Wearing

All students should bring the following materials everyday:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Mask | 6. Index cards |
| 2. Composition/Interactive Notebook | 7. Colored pencils |
| 3. Highlighters (minimum 4 colors) | 8. Scissors |
| 4. Writing utensil (pencil or pen) | 9. Science book |
| 5. Glue sticks (set of 4 or one large) | 10. Alcohol Gel (if you feel it is something you will need) |

Please sign and upload the last page into My On-Line Learning (Canvas) after it has been completed.

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,

Ms. Aursland

STUDENTS AND PARENTS: PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN.

REMIND INFORMATION:



Edit icon

Class name

8th Grade Basic/Advanced/Gifted Science

Class code

@ ab8g6a

School

Charles S. Rushe Middle School

I have read the course syllabus and understand what is required of me.

Student (print/sign name) _____

My son/daughter and I have reviewed the course syllabus.

Parent signature _____

Parent email _____ Parent Number _____

Teacher contact information:

Kim Aursland, email: kaurslan@pasco.k12.fl.us or (813) 346-1200

Parents: Is there anything that **you would like me to know about you or your student?**
