



**6th Grade Science
Course Syllabus
Mrs. Stephanie W. Ferrari
2013-2014
stephanie.ferrari@henry.k12.ga.us**



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, 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 6th grade Earth science curriculum includes, but is not limited to the following concepts:

| Tentative Dates | Unit Descriptions |
|---------------------|---|
| August – September | Rocks and Minerals: Students will conduct investigations to identify various minerals and rocks, which are both referred to as Earth's natural resources. |
| October – November | Weathering, Erosion, and Deposition: 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 | Plate Tectonics: 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 | Weather and Atmosphere: 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 | Earth in Space: 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 | Exploring the Solar System: 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:

1. Textbook: Textbooks will be issued. It will serve as supplemental material. The textbooks checked out to the student may 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 will need to be returned before the end of the school year or payment will be required to replace the missing textbook. Students also have access to the textbook online through my website under the tab, "Useful Science Curriculum Links".
2. Spiral Notebooks: Notebooks are kept on a daily basis. This notebook will serve as the student's "textbook". Each child received a handout outlining these guidelines. Notebooks are expected to be organized, completed, and in chronological order.
3. Other Supplies: one 5-subject spiral notebook, one folder with pockets and brads, notebook paper, clear sheet protectors, zipper style pencil pouch with pencils, small pencil sharpener with cover, colored pencils or crayons, highlighters, blue or black pens, glue sticks or tape, and mini-stapler with staples.
4. Agenda: Must have agenda in class every day!

Grading Policy:

Grades for each semester will be calculated using the following percentages-

- 20% - PRACTICE (includes class work assignments, homework assignments, notebook checks, lab work, written reflections/journal entries, analysis questions, warm-ups, etc.)
- 65% - ASSESSMENT TASK (unit tests, projects, culminating performance tasks, semester exams, constructed response assessments, quizzes, etc.) **A discussion question and/or problem solving tasks will be included on major assessments. Spelling, grammar, usage, punctuation, and content will be considered in evaluating the discussion question.
- 15% - SEMESTER EXAM (twice a year-end of the semester exams)

*Use Infinite Campus to check for updated grades.

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

Citation 2: Parent Notification/Silent Lunch with Written Reflection

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

Citation 4: Office Referral

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 daily 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 increase understanding and to enable students to assess their own knowledge of a given topic. I assign homework Monday – Thursday, so it should be written in their agenda daily. I fully expect students to bring completed assignments to class each day. 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 may only 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. I usually do not assign homework over the weekends, but sometimes they will need to study, complete unfinished assignments, or work on a project. This will depend on how well they utilize their study time during the school week.

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 obtain, secure, complete, and turn in all make up work.

Extra Credit:

Periodically throughout the year, I will give students extra credit opportunities. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities. Each child received a handout outlining these opportunities.

Staying Informed:

1. My Website: In order to help parents and students, I constantly update my website with 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/ugm>
 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 you will find numerous links that should make this year easier.
2. Remind 101: Sign up and receive little reminders from Mrs. Ferrari through text messages or emails. Each child received a handout outlining these instructions.
3. Weekly Team Newsletters: These newsletters are sent out weekly through email but hard copies are available.

Contact Information:

My planning time is from 2:30 until 3:30 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 #: 678-583-8978

School Fax #: 678-583-8580

Email: stephanie.ferrari@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!!

Mrs. Stephanie Ferrari