

Sixth Grade Science – Course Expectations

OVERVIEW

Welcome to 6th grade Science! The middle school science program allows students to investigate both the concepts and process skills of science. At each grade level topics in Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics are interconnected to show students the relationships that exist between the sciences and the natural world. Inquiry and laboratory investigations are an integral part of the program. Problem solving and online investigations are used continually to allow students to investigate authentic problems and reinforce science concepts.

The middle school science program was developed through a National Science Foundation grant and reflects the Maryland and National Science Content Standards. High expectations and differentiated instruction allow all students a challenging and engaging access to science.

UNITS OF STUDY: Living in the Natural World

Unit

Title

Summary Statement

1

Ecosystems and the Chesapeake Bay

Investigate ecosystems, using the Chesapeake Bay as a model.

Investigate populations and factors that influence them.

Explore energy roles and how energy moves through an ecosystem.

Participate in Outdoor Education

Earn Student Service Learning credit (SSL).

2

Diversity and Adaptations of Organisms

Explore similarities and differences among organisms.

Explore diversity and adaptations of organisms.

Explore relationships between organisms and their environment.

Investigate how species change over time.

3

Forces and Motion

Explore motion and the relationship between time, distance, velocity, and acceleration.

Explore the relationships between force and motion.

Investigate Newton's Laws of Motion.

Recognize and explain gravitational forces between objects.

4

Energy

Investigate the various forms of energy and the ways they can be transferred.

Explore conservation of energy.

Explain the many ways electrical energy can be produced and the effect on the environment.

Investigate the relationship between magnetic fields and electrical current.

Learning Skills and Mastery Assessments

Learning and Practice: Non-graded assignments are designed to work towards mastery of MCPS indicators through timely and specific feedback. They are included on the report card as a learning skill in areas of participation (asking questions, giving ideas, using feedback, engaging in learning) and work completion (completing homework, class-work, and lab activities) and are represented on the report card by consistent (C), often (O), seldom (S), rarely (R) and not observed (NA).

Mastery: Graded assignments will reflect individual achievement of MCPS indicators. They are included on the report card, and all assignments, as a percentage scale of A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, and E=0-59%. Your assignments will fall in three weighted categories: Formative Assessments 65%, Summative Assessments 25%, and Homework/Practice Assignments 10%.

Types of Assignments

Types of Assignments for learning, practice, and mastery may include:

tests and quizzes

lab activities/investigations

use of technology

class-work and homework

projects (individual & group)

safety assessment

reading and writing explorations

presentations

research explorations

making and using models

entrance & exit cards

Inquiry project

Late work and Missing Work:

Each assignment will have a due date. This is the date by which you are expected to submit the assignment. Your grade will drop one letter grade if it is not turned in by the due date.

The deadline is the last day an assignment will be accepted for a grade. Work not turned in by the deadline will be considered missing and receive a 0%.

Reassessment of student work:

Most formative assessments may be “retaken”/”redone” one time, and may be reassessed

partially, entirely, or in a different format. Summative assessments (Unit Tests) may NOT be reassessed.

Revised work will be assigned a due date by the teacher. The reassessment grade replaces the original grade. Students may be reassessed for a higher grade if they meet the following requirements:

The students must revise ALL parts of the assessment that were incorrect. This should be done on a separate sheet of looseleaf paper, with both the question and answer written. The original student work, along with the teacher comments and/or rubric, must accompany the revised work in order to be regraded.

Quizzes may be taken a second time, however the second score will take precedence over the first. The student is responsible for studying the information or seeing the teacher for help, before re-taking the quiz.

Required Class Materials:

Binder with a divider for their Science section

2 pencils

1 blue/black pen

1 red pen

calculators will be used occasionally but students will know ahead of time whether they will need to bring it to class.

If a student “forgets” to bring their required materials to class, they are responsible for borrowing the necessary materials from a classmate; the teacher will not provide missing materials. Students who frequently come to class unprepared will receive a lunch detention.

Class Tardiness:

If a student is late to class without an “Excused” pass from a teacher or the office (this includes arriving late in the morning), they will receive a 5 minute lunch detention. A student will complete a reflection sheet during the detention which will need to be signed by their parent. Frequent tardiness could result in a full lunch detention or referral to the office.

Absences:

It is the student’s responsibility to make up missing work from an absence. The student should see their teacher to discuss make-up work at an appropriate time during class. They will have one class period for each day they were absent to complete the work before it will be considered late.

Extra Credit: There will be NO extra credit.

Communication:
Student handbook
Science section of their binder
Progress reports / Interims
Baker website: <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/bakerms/>
Email: Mandy_K_Dishon@mcpsmd.org
EDLINE
Report Cards

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

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