



6th Grade Science

Mrs. Jenn Parker

Room 24

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Teacher Email:

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Office Hours: Mondays or by appointment

Test Days-Tuesdays (usually)

6th Grade Science Syllabus

Course Description and Objectives

Sixth Grade Science has officially rolled out the new integrated course model aligned with NGSS. The idea behind an integrated model in science is to explore phenomena observed in our daily lives, and understand all related scientific concepts surrounding specific, and often misunderstood, rarities. The integrated model interweaves the three discipline-specific topics (Earth, Life, and Physical sciences) with engineering components embedded within each segment. There are 4 segments per grade, focusing on age-appropriate standards. For 6th grade, these 4 segments are: Systems, Environmental Interactions, Influence of Plant and Animal Structures and Behaviors, and Human Impact.

For more information on the standards taught in this course please visit:

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/MS%20LS%20DCI%20combinedf.pdf>

- *MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE CURRICULUM-STEMscopes*
 - *STEMscopes Login:* <https://login.acceleratelearning.com/?to=n1106Od19080>

Class Expectations:

- ★ Always be kind and work hard.
- ★ Arrive to class (or Zoom) ready to learn and try your personal best each and every day.
- ★ Make sure you have classroom materials ready before the start of the class: Science Notebook, pencil, charged computer, experiment materials, highlighters, etc.
- ★ Be responsible for your own work. Look for absent/missing assignments in Google Classroom and check powerschool regularly.
- ★ Be an advocate for your own learning by asking questions when you don't understand or need clarification and always communicate with me if you need help or you are missing assignments.
- ★ Respect yourself, your teacher, your classmates, and school property.

Supplies: Students will use the Stemscores Student Notebook, a sturdy plastic folder, and a 2inch 3-ring binder, all provided by Woodside.

Homework, Projects, and Grading Policies: All grading, written work, testing, and homework standards that are used in this class reflect the adopted Academic

Standards for Woodside School. Homework should be seen as an integral part of the educational program at WES. *For more information on WES' homework policy, please refer to the handbook.*

Homework in science will not be daily. Students will be asked to study for tests, work on projects, complete packet pages, finish work not completed in class, complete the current event research and prepare for the presentation, and work on the STEM fair project. Homework helps to develop work habits and study skills, too.

- **SCIENCE CURRENT EVENTS** For this assignment, students are expected to CLOSE read 2 articles (expectations explained in class) of their choosing from the science community (within the last year). Once they've CLOSE read the articles, they are asked to write a two paragraph summary; one stating the facts, and the other stating the importance of the articles. The assignment is designed for the students to research, dissect the text, understand the main points, revel in the remarkable advancements in science going on right now, and present their findings to the class like a scientist. Each student chooses their due date, and will be expected to adhere to their own homework schedule that works best for them. Students will present the information, using Google Slides, on the their due date and turn in the articles and paragraphs. One current event per quarter.
- **STEM FAIR PROJECT-THIS IS STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS FOR 2020-USUALLY** the STEM Fair is **OPTIONAL** for sixth graders and also **HIGHLY** encouraged. **EVERY 6TH GRADER SHOULD PARTICIPATE!!!** If a sixth grader chooses to participate, all the work will be completed at home. Resources will be provided. A timeline of events and deadlines will be handed out to the students participating. I will be their STEM Fair mentor, but no class time will be used. I will do my best to assist each student in adhering to the deadlines set for them, assisting them in any way I can before school. at lunch, after school, or by email.
- **PROJECTS**-We will complete several small projects, as well as a few large projects, throughout the year. Long-term projects will be assigned in advance and students will be given a suggested timeline. It is the student's responsibility to turn in the long-term project before the due date if he or she will not be at school the day the project is due.

Grading Standards:

Grade	Percent	Grade Point
A	93-100	4.00
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.00
D-	60-62	0.67
F	59 and Below	0

Citizenship:

O: Outstanding

S: Satisfactory

N: Needs Improvement

U: Unsatisfactory

Incompletes (INC): Students who have a passing grade in class, but have not completed all the required work by report card time may receive an “INC” in place of a letter grade. That student will then have two weeks to complete the required work to receive a grade. If the work is not completed in that period of time, the student’s grade will be based on an average of grades recorded plus a zero for each missing assignment.

Test Corrections: Students may do test corrections if they score below a 70%. By completing test corrections properly, the student may earn up to a 75% score.

Grading: Grades are weighted by number of points. Tests, larger projects and assignments are worth more points than classwork, participation, homework assignments, and quizzes.

Excused Absences: Students will be given the opportunity to make up missed assignments because of an excused absence. Excused absences include medical appointments and sickness. Students will be given one additional day for each excused absence to make up assignments for no loss of credit.

Unexcused Absences: Students who miss school due to suspension, truancy, travel and/or unexcused absences (sports and shadowing other schools) must turn in their missed work upon return. It is up to the students to be responsible. If too much time passes, the missing assignments are not completed or turned in, students will receive a zero.

Late Work: All late homework, projects, and essays will be subject to a deduction of points. Missed tests will need to be completed within one week of the original test date.

Organization:

In-Person Learning-With the Stemsscopes program, students will be organizing and keeping most of their assignments in a packet to be turned in at the end of a segment or scope to the school office. Students should not throw anything away unless instructed by the teacher. Packets will be checked (for a grade) on the day tests are administered and throughout the segment and scope, then kept in a binder in class.

During Distance Learning-The same organization will be used during distance learning as In-Person Learning with a few exceptions.

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- Stemsscopes will also be used for some assignments and assessments.
- Some of the assignments and work will be contained in Google Suite, so all assignments will be kept either in Google Drive or in Google Classroom. Students will

be responsible for keeping their drives organized and should follow the naming protocol for assignments.

Acceptability of Written Work: All work must be neatly done in legible handwriting or typed. The use of a computer is strongly suggested. Unless otherwise specified, I prefer students' work to be submitted in hard copy form, not electronically. PLEASE include your name on ALL assignments.

My Teaching Philosophy:

I love being a teacher. I love science. I love my students. I care for them and their success the moment they walk through my door. I have extremely high expectations and know the students are capable of far more than they can imagine. I want them to be happy, have fun learning, love to be in class, and love learning about science. I will teach the science content required, study skills, life skills, and a love for science.

We are all a team; the student, the teacher, and the parents. Each student's needs are different and require special attention. Working closely with each student's family is a vital component to student success. Please feel free to contact me about anything, anytime.

Parent Support:

To help your child stay organized and feel successful please talk to your 6th grader and ask them what they are learning about in science, check over their Interactive Science Packets, actively listen to their Packet Tours, check PowerSchool, and email me!

Communication:

The best way to contact me is via email at jparker@woodsideschool.us. I will respond as soon as I can. :)

This WILL be an AWESOME YEAR OF SCIENCE!!!!

zoom Etiquette

★ **Be Ready**

Be ready for your zoom meeting. Gather any materials you need ahead of time. Also, make sure you go to the bathroom beforehand. If you want to have water, grab a bottle before the zoom starts.

★ **Stay in One Spot during the Zoom**

I know this seems like a great time to give your school friends a tour of your home and introduce them to your pets, but resist the urge. It's distracting to the class. So, stay put and schedule a video call with your friends later to give them the house tour. Try not to swivel in your fun swivel chair!

★ **Use Appropriate Backgrounds**

Zoom has a ton of fun backgrounds, but don't use them when you are on with your class. It makes it very difficult for them to see you. If possible, find a spot in your house that has a blank background and has good lighting. But, don't sit in front of a window with the light streaming in behind you; that will also make it hard for people to see you.

★ **Know When and How To Mute**

The mute button is your friend in zoom. When your device picks up any sound, zoom grabs your screen and puts you front and center. That's great if you are answering a question or adding a comment. However, it's not so great for background noise. Turn on mute and keep it on until it is your time to speak. Use the spacebar to mute and unmute!

★ **Find a Quiet Spot**

To avoid distraction for you and the others on the conference call, find a quiet spot in your house. It will be easier for classmates or teammates to hear from you and for you to hear them.

★ **Be On Time**

Be on time for your zoom call. Log into the call a few minutes early to make sure your device is working properly.

★ **Wait Your Turn**

Teachers will give you a signal to use, like raising your hand, if you have something to say. Use good manners by using this signal before speaking.

★ **Be Presentable**

Take a few minutes to make yourself presentable. Brush your hair and teeth. Change out of your pajamas.

★ **Be Respectful**

During your zoom meetings with classmates, act like you would in your class at school. Do not chew gum, crunch on snacks, or talk with your sibling during a call.

★ **Stay on Task**

Stay on task by leaving your cellphones, devices, or any other distractions in another room. Do not message classmates during the zoom meeting unless instructed to do so. Be an active listener and participant in your learning.