

KAISERSLAUTERN AMERICAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

APO AE 09021

6TH GRADE SCIENCE: SCHOOL YEAR **2025-26**

Mr Dittmer--ROOM 102



Dear Parents and Students,

(In this digital version—everything is [hyperlinked in blue](#)—for easy access to information from your Chromebook, phone or workstation)

Welcome to [6th Grade Science](#)! There has never been a more exciting time to discover the world of [science](#)! And now that you've made the big move from elementary science to [secondary science](#), you will discover a great deal more about the world you live in. *This school year will be an interesting one !* There is no better time for your child to become science literate in understanding our natural world than the present. DODEA has adopted our [College & Career Ready for Science Standards](#). Our [ONLINE textbook](#) complement our new standards is called [SAVVAS Elevate](#). This resource is our new TEXTBOOK that is designed to make this year of science an exciting one for everyone involved! Your child will have a 'GOOGLE password' to access all the digital aspects of this resource. While it's **not required** for your child to access [websites](#) from home, the possibility is there ! Together we will take a fresh look at science through investigations, hands-on labs, and explorations into topics including engineering and life. We'll have just **FOUR units of science** this school year to match our four quarterly grades. Each unit contains in-depth lessons that let students explore a variety of concepts related to the topic of study. With our rotating schedule, we'll have plenty of time to master our standards, and if your child uses our Thursday "seminar" wisely, your child should have very little work to complete at home. These units and lessons include [projects](#), [hands-on labs](#), [activities](#), and [engineering challenges](#) that provide your child opportunities to actively participate in their learning. A more detailed listing of our science standards will be in your child's science folder, and can easily be found on our ["SCOPE & SEQUENCE" page](#)

[ELEVATE Science \(by SAVVAS\)™](#) will help your child build a foundation for how to evaluate evidence, make valid claims, develop reasoning skills, and synthesize information from a variety of sources. We look forward to exploring these dimensions of science together with our [College & Career ready](#) literacy standards throughout the school year ! Be sure to bookmark our [CLASSLINK webpage](#) on your home computer:
<https://launchpad.classlink.com/dodea>

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about our new [College & Career Ready Standards for Science \(CCRSS\)](#). What's cool about this year is we have [CLASSLINK](#) for your child to access all of our online portals in one click. Click **HERE** to see our daily schedule for [Quarter 1](#).

In addition, if your child is experiencing any anxiety over any concern.... do not hesitate to contact our **amazing 6th grade counselor** : Ms. Sarah Steadman (sarah.steadman@dodea.edu) **Ms. Steadman's Office:** Building 1032 Main Office

School phone #'s:

+49 (0)6317-106-6440

DSN: 324-483-6440

Regards! **Mr. Dave Dittmer- 6th Grade**

Kaiserslautern Middle School

david.dittmer@dodea.edu

Safety will become an important part of our discussion while preparing you for experimentation this school year. Students who prove unable to follow teacher instructions during a lab will be assigned an alternate activity and your parent(s) will be notified. Luckily, there were no students from last year's class who refused to follow our safety procedures and we expect the same this school year.

GRADING POLICY: The student's quarter grade will be an average of the following and will be converted to a letter grade using DODEA's grading scale: **A**= 90-100; **B**= 80-89; **C**= 70-79; **D**= 60-69; **F**= 59 and below.

Standards Based Assessments.....40% **Classwork/Labs**.....60%

Late Work: Yes! I will accept work from students who were absent, on emergency leave or were @ the nurses' office. All incomplete work will be shown as MISSING (with a note shown in our ASPEN grading portal) until your child is able to turn this in for evaluation.

Absent Work: Students will be required to complete standard-based assignments missed during their absence. The grade will appear in ASPEN as incomplete (INC or ABS) until your child has time to complete any missing assignments. Feel free to contact the teacher if modification needs to be made for your child.

ASPEN GRADEBOOK: Please take the time to set up a parent's [ASPEN account](#). Report cards should no longer be a surprise each quarter. [ASPEN](#) is a great tool to assist you in monitoring your child's progress daily, weekly, monthly, etc....e-mail me if you have any question on your child's assessments. All assignments are uploaded digitally to the assignment section in both WORD or DODEA GOOGLE DOC format.

Every student will be taught how to access Savvas Engage online Textbook — ask your child to show you this !

STANDARD-BASED ASSESSMENTS: DODEA is a [standard based curriculum](#). Each unit encompasses a wide range of standards in science and therefore regular assessments are needed to check for student understanding and mastery of the concepts. Standards-based Assessments (formerly known as Tests) will occur when units of information are covered (every two to three weeks). This year's science standards will be our guide to the concepts learned this school year.

Forms of Assessment: I will use a variety of these throughout the school year.

- Tests ([Savvas Online](#) & [SCHOOLGY](#))
- Lab/experiment reports
- Performance tasks
- [Ecybermission Project](#) (Semester 1 extra credit-- Click [HERE](#) to register online !)
- Interactive Evidence Journal
- Quizzes
- Research Projects(individual & group)

WORK OUTSIDE OF CLASS: Students will be assigned work outside of class time when classwork is NOT completed in class. Your child has a 'seminar class' every Thursday to catch up on reading, prepare for tests/quizzes and complete any "homework". I encourage parents to be mindful of standard-based assignments missed due to family vacations or student illnesses. While we do have an online digital textbook, it is *never* required for students to have WiFi or internet access at home.

Evidence Notebook: Students will maintain an interactive science 'evidence' journal ('IEN' is our code in ASPEN) throughout the year. I will assign various activities to be completed in the journal. Most times, the journals stay in my classroom unless the student needs to complete unfinished work.

SUPPLIES:

- School-wide:** - **One Three Ring notebook/binder** (This will be used for your child's team core classes; Science, Math, Language Arts and Social Studies) Students do not need one per subject.
- **One NOTEBOOK for Science Class (any bound notebook will do !)**
 - **Loose-leaf Notebook Paper** (8 1/2 by 11") for the binder
 - **Pencils, pens, erasers**

Science Class: One Spiral Notebook (to be used for our Interactive Evidence Notebook)

Optional: One large box of tissues (I will purchase these often throughout the year, but any donations are helpful).

Classroom Discipline Policy:

Classroom Rules

1. Listen and Follow Directions
2. Raise Your Hand before Speaking or Leaving Your Seat
3. Respect Your Classmates and Your Teacher
4. Keep Hands, Feet, and Objects to Yourself



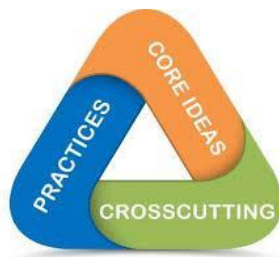
Basic Student Responsibilities

- * Bring your charged Chromebook to class everyday & be ready for daily assignments.
- * Start your work on time and allow time to finish before the bell rings.
- * Ask for help when you need it. (You can even write to the teacher if you're shy—e-mail or sticky notes !)
- * Turn your work in on time.
- * Accept responsibility for grades & check your ASPEN grading portal often !

Consequences for Poor Choices:

- 1st Offense: Verbal Warning
- 2nd Offense: Teacher/Student Conference to discuss and resolve issue.
- 3rd Offense: Behavior Notice. Parent, Teacher, and Student Conference
- 4th Offense: Detention or Office Referral (Depending on Offense)

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your child the wonderful world of science. I hope to see a great deal of excitement about science this school year.



"Science is as simple as finding patterns in the world around you, nothing more nothing less."

Author unknown

College & Career Ready Textbook : Grade 6

ONLINE Textbook: Savvas Engage – Integrated Science I

Science content in sixth grade begins with matter & energy. Students will be provided a workbook & will complete project-based investigations to master our NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards).

DODEA Google Classroom for science education:

College & Career Readiness for 21st century students involves using our technology here at KMS to apply the scientific method using all sorts of methods for research & reporting of data. DODEA has it's own "global" on Google Apps for education, and you'll notice we use this extensively here in science class. (**NOTE:** under **no** circumstances is it **required** for your child to access internet based websites at HOME. All skills & access to your GOOGLE DRIVE can be obtained with one login & password.)

david.dittmer@student.dodea.edu

(Our 6th grade online supplementary website): Schoology- <https://schoology.dodea.edu/home#>

Overall Course Objectives: "students will....."

- A. Develop an attitude of curiosity and involvement with our new ONLINE curriculum !
- B. Develop an appreciation for the contributions of science through our project-based explorations.
- C. Recognize the value of solving problems in a scientific manner.
- D. Develop those intellectual processes of **inquiry** by which scientific problems are explained, predicted, and/or controlled.
- E. Develop knowledge of scientific facts, terminology, concepts, processes, and principles to confront and interpret occurrences in his/her environment.
- F. Develop abilities to handle, construct, and manipulate materials and equipment in a productive and safe manner.
- G. Develop the ability to use our DODEA Google e-mail, SAVVAS Textbook ONLINE, and other internet technologies to help organize and report your scientific data and discoveries
- H. Learn to report your science findings using cooperative groups in class.
- I. Develop an awareness of the nature of careers in science and technology.

Our very FIRST quarter in science we will learn lots of interesting things, including, but not limited to the following topics:

TOPIC 1: Introduction to Matter

Lesson 1 Describing and Classifying

Lesson 2 Measuring Matter

Lesson 3 Changes in Matter

TOPIC 2: Solids, Liquids, and Gases

Lesson 1 States of Matter

Lesson 2 Changes of State

Lesson 3 Gas Behavior

TOPIC 3: Energy

Lesson 1 Energy, Motion, Force, and Work

Lesson 2 Kinetic Energy and Potential Energy

Lesson 3 Other Forms of Energy

ONLINE TEXT: Savvas Realize/Engage

Beginning this year, students will be introduced to a new, online science program, via [CLASSLINK](#).

Logging onto our [SCIENCE](#) Book is easy.

You just need to follow the following steps:

1. If you're curious about what we'll be learning...[get started](#) !
2. Access via [CLASSLINK](#): <https://launchpad.classlink.com/dodea>

**KAISERSLAUTERN AMERICAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
APO AE 09094-0005**

**6TH GRADE SCIENCE -- SCHOOL YEAR 2023-24
MR. DITTMER --ROOM 4**

KMS has always been committed to the home/school connection. Please copy & paste into an e-mail or document if you are interested in being a guest speaker this school year in science class, or if you could help out with our [Ecybermission project](#) (Semester 1 extra credit).

_____ Be a Guest Speaker in Science !! If you have an expertise in an area of science and would like to share a half-hour of your time, please do!

Presentation Topic: _____

Dates available (month or season is fine): _____

_____ Become an E-CYBERMISSION group advisor or presenter on a STEM topic (more information at: <http://www.ecybermission.com>)

Click [HERE](#) to register for [ECYBERMISSION](#) Click [HERE](#) to submit our [Ecybermission SCAVENGER HUNT](#) !

*Feel free to provide additional information about your child you would like to share with me or our team leader by phone or e-mail. If you prefer not to put anything in writing, feel free to contact our team leader, **Ms. Marcia Marcy***

(marcia.marcy@dodea.edu) & come in for a team meeting to chat with ALL of your child's teachers ! 😊

KMS SY25-26 Rotating Schedule: 6th Grade only

KMS Schedule M, T, W, & F		KMS Schedule Thursdays
Block 1 0820-0905 (45)		Block 1 0920-0950 (30)
Block 2 0910-0955 (45)		Block 2 0955-1025 (30)
Block 3 1000-1045 (45)		Block 3 1030-1100 (30)
Block 4 <u>Lunch</u> Lunch 1100-1130 (35) Class 1135-1230 (50)		Block 4 <u>Lunch</u> Lunch 1105-1135 (30) Class 1140-1215 (35)
Block 5 1235-1320 (45)		Block 5 1220-1250 (30)
Block 6 1325-1410 (45)		Block 6 1255-1320 (25)
Block 7 1415-1500 (45)		Block 7 1325-1355 (30)
		Seminar 1400-1500 (60)