



The Springfield Renaissance School, gr. 6-12

An Expeditionary Learning School

*Respect *Courage *Responsibility *Friendship *Cultural Sensitivity
*Perseverance *Self-Discipline



General Science Course Syllabus

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Our School's Mission Statement:

The school's mission is to provide a rigorous academic program for college-bound students in a small, personalized setting that impels and supports students to use their minds well, to care for themselves and others, and to rise to the challenges and duties of citizenship.

Course Overview: In sixth grade science, students will explore a variety of scientific topics, ranging from movement in Earth's crust, the history of the Earth, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, and space. Throughout this course, students will be working both independently and collaboratively to build their scientific skills. Through use of scientific articles, written notes, and laboratory demonstrations, students will gain a well-rounded understanding of the general sciences.

Grading: Students will be graded on two categories: Learning Targets and Habits of Work. Being clear with students about **what** they need to learn and **why** they need to learn it is our priority. Students are able to have a clear visual of their progress towards Learning Targets and Habits of Work through graded work on Unified Classroom and teacher feedback.

The grade for this course will be determined by taking a students' grades for each learning target and trending them. For example, if a student received a 2, 2, 2.5, 3, 3, 3 for Learning Target 1, that score would be trending to a 3.

Learning Targets (80% of Overall Grade)	Digital Habits of Work (20% of Overall Grade)
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I can use fossil evidence to explain how life on Earth has changed over time.2. I can use fossil evidence to demonstrate how Earth's continents have shifted over time.3. I can identify and explain the different interactions of matter.4. I can identify the characteristics and functions of light rays and mechanical waves.5. I can explain the structure and function of cells and their organelles.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I come to my digital environment ready to learn.2. I actively and collaboratively participate in my online class.

6. I can explain how the respiratory, digestive, and circulatory systems work together to help humans survive. 7. I can use scientific evidence to construct an argument about whether humans should colonize Mars.	3. I can assess and revise my independent assignments. 4. I am a self-directed and organized student.
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Grades will be updated on a weekly basis on Unified Classroom. Please check there to see your grades! Our grading scale is as follows:

<i>Number</i>	<i>What does the number mean?</i>
0	No work was submitted.
1	You tried the skill but were not on the right track. You need some more help to meet the target.
2	You have an idea of what to do, but still need support. Your work is beginning to meet the target.
2.5	You mostly get it, but still need help with some parts. You are approaching this target.
3	You proved that you mastered the skill. Your work meets the target.
4	You proved that you have an advanced understanding of the skill. Your work exceeds the target.

Asynchronous Assignments: Wednesday and Thursdays are asynchronous (aka independent) days for Science. Students will receive 1-2 assignments to be completed on asynchronous days per week. Students have one week from the date of the assignment to submit it. I will not accept late work past the due date, unless due to an absence or extreme circumstance. On Thursdays I will be available to offer help and answer any questions regarding asynchronous assignments.

Office Hours: Every Thursday, I will be available to answer questions and provide extra help on an as-needed basis. I will be available via Zoom, as well as e-mail and Unified Classroom.

Make-up Work: All Google slide presentations used in class will be posted to the 6th grade Google site. (tinyurl.com/ren6th) Please see the Google site for any make up work. I will also be available during my office hours to help a student get caught up and/or answer any questions.

Course Materials: Students are required to have the following materials for class.

1. Notebook
2. Pencils, Erasers
3. Post It Notes

Communication: I will communicate with students and families through the app ClassDojo, as well as through Unified Classroom. Class announcements can also be found there. I am asking that families try their hardest to join our ClassDojo classroom!

Bathroom: If a student needs to go to the bathroom or step away from their laptop while on Zoom, please send me a private chat to let me know you are stepping away, then turn your camera off. I ask that students limit time away from Zoom to 5 minutes. Students will also get a 10-minute break between classes to go to the bathroom, stretch, etc.

Laptops: Students must use a Springfield Public Schools laptop for all Zoom meetings. Zooming from a cell phone is not allowed, per district policy.