

6th Science Syllabus *Integrated Science I*

Year-long

SY2026-2027



Teacher	Room Number
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Course Description/Standards Covered

6th Grade Integrated Science provides students a foundation in science through hands-on experiences. Through active engagement and concrete examples, I guide students to deeper understanding of essential science concepts. Specifically, students explore aspects of life, earth, and physical sciences through inquiry and exploration. I will focus on teaching students to formulate questions, design and carry out investigations, create models to express ideas, and make connections to larger systems.

DoDEA and Next Generation Science Standards can be found here:

<https://www.dodea.edu/Curriculum/Science/standards.cfm>

<https://www.nextgenscience.org/>

Expectations and Goals

By the end of this course, students will:

- Develop a solid understanding of the fundamental principles of course topics.
- Enhance your critical thinking and problem-solving skills within the context of course topics.
- Apply theoretical concepts to real-world scenarios and case studies.
- Improve your communication skills through discussions, presentations, and written assignments.
- Cultivate a genuine interest in course topics and its applications in various fields.

Homework/Grading:

Homework assignments will be given as needed to reinforce your learning and provide you with opportunities to apply the concepts covered in class. Grading will be based on the quality of your participation, assignments, quizzes, and any exams that might be scheduled. Detailed grading criteria will be provided for each assignment to ensure transparency and fairness.

Due Dates:

All assignment due dates will be clearly stated in advance. It's important to submit your assignments on time. Late submissions will be graded using the school grading policies.

Behavior Expectations

Respect: Treat your classmates, the instructor, and the learning environment with respect. Diversity of opinions is encouraged, but all discussions should be conducted in a respectful and inclusive manner.

Participation: Active participation in class discussions, group activities, and projects is vital to your learning experience and the success of the class as a whole.

Preparedness: Come to class prepared, having completed any assigned readings or activities. This will enable you to contribute meaningfully to discussions.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and cheating are unacceptable. Always give proper credit to your sources and uphold the highest standards of academic integrity.

Restroom Breaks

Students may use the restroom during class as needed (except during the first or last 10 minutes of class) but are expected to sign out and back in upon return. If the frequency becomes a concern, the school nurse and parents will be notified. Students are strongly encouraged to make judicious use of time between classes and during lunch to use restrooms.

Discipline

Generally, discipline is outlined in the Student Handbook. Disciplinary actions include, but are not limited to, verbal reprimands and redirection, conferences, or detentions. Other behavior management techniques will be considered prior to resorting to formal disciplinary actions that remove a student from school for a suspension (short or long term). Discipline

will be handled appropriate to the severity and recurrence of the issue. Attempts will be made to address the issue in class first, followed by parental notification, and ultimately Principal involvement.

Communication

Effective communication is key to your success in this course. I am committed to maintaining an open line of communication. Feel free to ask questions during class or seek clarification after class if needed. Additionally:

- Communication Plan: I will provide clear explanations during class and respond promptly to emails or messages through the course platform.
- Contact: The best way to reach me is via email at alice.tijerina@dodea.edu. I aim to respond to all messages within 24 hours during weekdays.
- I'm excited to embark on this educational journey with my incoming and returning students and look forward to a year of growth, exploration, and meaningful discussions. Let's make this an enriching experience for everyone involved!

Neighborhood Expectations	Classroom Consequences
1. Make learning a priority. 2. Follow directions in both the classroom and the neighborhood. 3. Turn assignments in on time. 4. Show respect for yourself and others. 5. Show up with a positive attitude. 6. Be on time for class. 7. Take responsibility for your actions. 8. Clean up after yourself. 9. Class participation is required. 10. No Cell Phones unless teacher permission is given.	1. Verbal warning 2. Refocus form 3. Parent contact/Silent Lunch 4. Parent Conference 5. Discipline referral to the Principal

School Tardy Policy
• Students must be in the learning studio when the bell rings, or they will be marked tardy. • Students 5 or more minutes late must have a pass from the front office. • 3rd unexcused tardy of quarter = consequence (teacher communicated & assigned)

Grading Scale	Missing Work
40% - Formative Assignment (Classwork, Exit Tickets, Bell Work, Laboratory Experiments, Quizzes) 60% - Summative Assessment (Tests, Projects)	Missing assignments will be listed as MSG in Aspen, along with a teacher comment with further information. Once the assignment is turned in and graded, the MSG will be replaced with the grade received.

Late Work and Missing Assignments

- **Submission Timelines:** Students are expected to adhere to all established deadlines. If a student is present but fails to submit work, the entry in Aspen will be **MSG (Missing)**. This placeholder calculates as a **zero** until the assignment is received.
- **The Two-Day Grace Period:** A window of **two school days** following the original deadline is provided for students to submit work for **full earned credit** (due at the start of class on day two). This allows you to show mastery of standards while practicing accountability. High standards for quality remain consistent during this time. **Note: This does not apply to routine homework, but rather pre-set assignments.**
- **Closing the Assignment:**
 - Upon submission, the MSG status will be updated to reflect the grade you earned.
 - If work remains outstanding after the grace period, the gradebook entry is finalized to ensure an accurate reflection of academic progress and maintain our instructional pace.
 - The **MSG** will transition to a permanent **NTI (Not Turned In)**, which carries no point value.
 - Assignments are considered closed at the start of the second school day and lose eligibility for full credit, barring approved exceptions.
- **Approved Exceptions:** This policy complements existing support systems. Recognized exceptions include:
 - Excused absences (extension provided per school guidelines)
 - IEP or Section 504 plan accommodations

- Teacher-approved extensions arranged in advance
- Specific administrative determinations
- *Acceptance of work past the two-day window remains at the instructor's professional discretion.*
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Why This Policy?

Our goal is to ensure grades communicate **student learning**, not behavior alone. Research consistently shows that students benefit when they have a reasonable opportunity to complete missing work while still being held accountable for meeting deadlines. This policy provides both.

GRADING SCALE		ASPEN CODES YOU MIGHT SEE	
GRADE	NUMERICAL RANGE	 MSG	Missing (counts as 0; hurts grade)
A	90 – 100	 ABS	Absent – Temporary Input (counts as 0; hurts grade) <i>Will be changed after work is turned in.</i>
B	80 – 89	 NTI	Not Turned In (counts as 0; hurts grade)
C	70 – 79	 EXC	Excused (does not affect grade)
D	60 – 69	 INC	Incomplete (no effect until fixed)
F (failing)	0 – 59	 BLANK	No Grade yet

 **PRO TIP:** Teachers will communicate grading policies and practices early/often and update you when changes occur.

Consistent schoolwide approaches promote:

- Clear expectations for all students
- Timely feedback for families
- Accurate communication of academic progress
- Student responsibility and organization
- Fairness and consistency across all classrooms

DoWEA Digital Device Policy:

To maximize learning and minimize distractions, SpMS follows DoWEA's Digital Device Policy.

- Personal electronic devices (including cell phones, smart watches/glasses used for communication, earbuds/headphones, and similar devices) **must be powered off and stored away during the instructional day unless a staff member specifically authorizes their use for an instructional purpose or an approved accommodation.**
- Students are expected to follow all staff directions regarding electronic devices.
- Unauthorized use of a digital device may result in the device being secured in accordance with school procedures and may result in additional disciplinary consequences.
- Students are responsible for the care and security of their personal devices. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal electronics.

1ST OFFENSE	2ND OFFENSE	3RD OFFENSE	4TH+ OFFENSE
 - Device confiscated - Student picks up at the end of the day	 - Device confiscated - Parent picks up at the end of the day	 - Device confiscated - Parent picks up at the end of the day - Detention	 - Device confiscated - Parent picks up at the end of the day - Detention and/or loss of device privileges for the remainder of the year

Course Materials

Required Materials

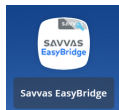
Chromebook, lined paper, composition notebook, two pocket folder, pencils, eraser

Optional Materials

Highlighters, coloring pencils, weird headphones

Required Text

Elevate Science Course 2 (Savvas) - Digital through Classlink. There are no hard copies available.



Course Schedule

The schedule provided below serves as a general outline for the course and is subject to adjustment based on the needs of the students. It is important to recognize that each student brings a unique set of prior knowledge and life experiences to the classroom. As a result, some sections of the course may require more or less time to fully grasp the material. My goal is to ensure that every student has the opportunity to comprehend and engage with the content at their own pace. Therefore, the pace and duration of each section are flexible to accommodate diverse learning styles and individual requirements.

Topic	Name
1	Introduction to Matter
2	Solids, Liquids, and Gases
3	Energy
4	Thermal Energy
5	Introduction to Earth's Systems
6	Weather in the Atmosphere
7	Minerals and Rocks in the Geosphere
8	Plate tectonic
9	Earth's Surface Systems
10	Living Things in the Biosphere

Assessment Schedule: Assessments play a pivotal role in gauging your understanding of the course material and tracking your progress. In this course, assessments will be structured to help you solidify your learning and showcase your mastery of the content. Please familiarize yourself with the assessment schedule outlined below:

- Periodic Assessments Within Learning Modules: Throughout each learning module, you can expect to have periodic assessments. These assessments will be strategically placed to assess your comprehension as you progress through the material. They provide an opportunity for you to reinforce your understanding of key concepts and ensure that you are staying on track with the curriculum.
- End-of-Module Assessments: At the conclusion of each learning module, you will undergo an end-of-module assessment. This assessment will encompass the topics covered during the module and will evaluate your overall grasp of the content. It serves as a comprehensive review and a chance to demonstrate your integration of concepts.

It's important to note that these assessments are designed to help you succeed. They are not meant to induce stress, but rather to provide a clear picture of your strengths and areas for improvement. I encourage you to approach assessments as opportunities for growth and learning.

Should you have any questions about the assessment schedule, the format of assessments, or strategies for preparation, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am committed to supporting you in your academic journey and ensuring that assessments contribute to your success.

Tutorials/Assistance with Assignments

Seminar is designed to provide support for students struggling with concepts.

Following an absence, students may sign up to be requested for the Seminar to complete missing labs and missed content as needed. Students are responsible for their missed work. Students must initiate requests to attend Seminar.