

Title of Class: 6th Grade Science

Teacher Name: Jennifer Ploss

Room: S-4

Phone: (505)255-8681 ext 20536

Email: jennifer.ploss@aps.edu

Prep Period: 3rd

Course Description:

In 6th grade, students are engaged as scientists and engineers as they explore natural phenomena and solve problems across 5 units that integrate Earth and space science, life science, physical science, and technology/engineering. All units are developed around the essential 6th grade NGSS science standards.

Units/Topics and NGSS/State Science Standards Addressed (highlighted are 6th grade essential standards. ALL are from the middle school NGSS standards). Compared to the APS 6th Grade Scope + Sequence [here](#).

Unit	Chemical Kitchen	Catastrophic Cycles	Rock Files	La Nina Winter	Ear Attack
Topic(s)	Matter, Thermal Energy	Earth's structure, geoscience processes	Geologic time scale, relative dating, cycling of Earth's materials	Weather + Climate, Thermal Energy, Light Energy	Cells, body systems
Standards	PS1-1, PS1-4, PS3-3, PS3-4, PS3-5	ESS2-1, ESS2-2, ESS2-3, ESS3-2, PS4-1	ESS2-1, ESS1-4,	ESS 2-4, ESS 2-5, ESS 2-6, PS4-1, PS4-2	LS1-1, LS1-2

***ALL 6th grade essential standards will be assessed multiple times throughout the year. SOME non-essential middle school standards may be exchanged, depending on student-driven questions and investigations.

Textbook/Novels/Fees/Additional Media Materials:

Curriculum used: Stem Scopes and Spark Science

Fees: DONATIONS of any amount will be used for hands-on supplies, outdoor learning experiences, and (hopefully) a field trip or two

Materials: 100-page spiral notebook (1 for each semester); 12 pencils, set of highlighters, set of colored pencils OR thin markers, pair of scissors (students keep with them), 12 glue sticks, Chromebook and charger (every day!)

Additional media (students will have accounts/access): Gizmos, PhET simulations, TUVA, Canva

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Grading: How do I get a grade? This course will use standards-based grading, which is similar to what is used in elementary school. The two key ideas of standards-based grading are (1) levelled assessments and (2) anything that is incorrect can be reattempted (except the final exam).

The benefit of this system is that **you control your grade**. The guidelines below describe exactly how to get a specific grade. Overall, this system should be **less stressful** for you. Your grade is determined by your **best** performances, and you get several chances to show that you **TOTALLY** get the standard.

Your grade will be calculated based on your demonstrated level of **mastery** of our weekly **Learning Reflections (LR)** and **Standards Mastery Tickets (ST)** (demonstrating mastery of standards). In addition, at the end of each quarter, there will be a comprehensive **final exam**.

Learning Reflections (LR) – 20% of the quarter grade
Learning Reflections are due on Fridays. Each Learning Reflection requires ONE photo of something you did in your Interactive Notebook, and 3 Sentences that answer at least one of the questions listed for that week, using at least 1 vocabulary word from the week. ONE score will be dropped (the lowest score for the quarter). *** Learning Reflections are worth 5 points each (1 for a photo, 1 for each sentence, 1 for correct use of vocabulary).
Standards Mastery Tickets (ST) – 60% of the quarter grade
Standard Mastery Tickets are due on Fridays, and are “levelled”, meaning there are 4 different “problems” to solve, each of which is a different difficulty. Your grade is equal to the highest level you achieve on each ST. *** Standard Mastery Tickets are worth 4 points each (4 points for the hardest problem, 1 point for the easiest problem, 0 points for lack of evidence or no correct answer on any problem).
Unit Post-Tests (10% of the quarter grade) and Final Exam (10% of the SEMESTER grade)
There is a pre-test and post-test for each unit . The pre-test does NOT count toward your grade , but can give you an idea of what we are about to learn, and gives ME an idea of what I need to make sure I emphasize while teaching. We will retake the exam as a post-test (which WILL count toward your grade) at the end of the unit, and you CAN retake these exams for higher credit AFTER you show me a one-pager with notes on the questions you got wrong. The final exam is at the end of each semester, and covers EVERYTHING we’ve learned throughout the semester. You will be given some practice tests via Kahoot or Blooket, and you can use ONE PAGE of notes on the final exam. *** Post-Tests are worth 10 points each and can be retaken after a correct, complete one-pager is shown. *** Final Exams are worth 100 points . No retakes are allowed.

Assignment Weights at the end

Learning Reflections – 20%
Standards Mastery Tickets – 60%
Unit Post-Tests – 10%
Final Exam (1 per quarter) – 10%

Percentages to Letter Grades

A = 81-100
B = 61-80
C = 41-60
D = 21-40
F = 0-20

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Homework/Grading Policy:

No homework will be assigned. However, if students choose not to work during the school day OR are absent for multiple days, they may need to use some time at home to catch up. I will be available upon request for lunch time makeup work OR revisions/retakes.

Late Assignment Policy:

ALL ASSIGNMENTS will be graded as a 0 until it is turned in. However, there is **no penalty for late work**. **ANY ASSIGNMENT** can be redone/revised/retaken **EXCEPT** the final exam for each semester. **ALL RETAKES/REVISIONS** must be turned in by the **LAST FRIDAY of the quarter**.

*****Office Hours** are available every Wednesday during A lunch in my room (S-4). You must come to my room at the beginning of lunch. I will give you a pass to go get the hot lunch if you need one. You cannot come **AFTER** the passing period bell!!!

Class Expectations:

1. Students are expected to respect themselves.
2. Students are expected to respect others.
3. Students are expected to respect the environment.
4. Students are expected to follow instructions to keep themselves and others safe.

*****Please review the student handbook. Policies will be strictly enforced.**

Class Materials:

1. 8.5x11 (or larger) 100 page spiral notebook - keep in class in basket with your class period
2. **EVERY DAY in class:** Chromebook, Interactive Notebook (kept in class), Pencil, Agenda
3. I will add any classroom supplies we are low on to the quarterly materials request. Alternatively, you can donate to our class fund once I send that information home, and I can purchase supplies to replenish what I've collected so far.

I have read and understand the expectations for Ms. Ploss' science class.

Period: _____

Parent / Guardian name: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Guardian signature: _____

Student name: _____ **Date:** _____

Student signature _____