

Fifth Grade Science – Syllabus

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Fifth grade students will explore Nature of Science, Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth Science concepts. Refer to www.mansfieldisd.org/curriculum/science/home.htm for curriculum.

TEXT

Science text can be accessed electronically through Accelerate Learning (Stemscopes).

Link: www.acceleratelearning.com/login

Username: first and last initial

Password: MISD student id#

SUPPLEMENTARY RESOURCES

Educationgalaxy.com

Please see students' login sheet located in binder

Additional recommended resources will be provided via your child's teacher.

REQUIREMENTS / MATERIALS

All students will be required to maintain a planner (provided at no cost) for recording assignments and homework. The planner is required throughout the year for assignments and communication in all classes. If the first planner is lost, a replacement can be purchased through the front office.

All students will be required to have 1 composition book to be left in class for science journaling and lab reports.

Both home and class projects, including Science Fair*, may be assigned throughout the year. Details will be provided as they are assigned. Other homework assignments may also be given to help a student make connections between classroom learning and the real world.

**Materials for Science Fair will include Tri fold board, any and all items related to the experiment the student will be designing.*

COURSE CALENDAR / SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

Semester 1 Lab Safety/Matter and Energy

Force and Motion

Earth Cycles

Semester 2 Science Fair (at home project)

Earth Resources

Organisms and Environment

Science Boot Camp

1st Instructional Period - Aug. 14-Sept. 20

2nd Instructional Period - Sept. 23-Nov. 1

3rd Instructional Period - Nov. 4-Dec. 18

4th Instructional Period - Jan. 8-Feb. 21

5th Instructional Period - Feb. 24-April 9

6th Instructional Period - April 13-May 28

GRADING PRACTICES

To view student grades, visit <http://www.mansfieldisd.org/>. Click on “Skyward” and follow the directions. Student grades and assignments are updated in the Skyward Parent Portal within five business days for daily and major grades. Special consideration is given to major projects, including lengthy writing assignments. Parents may set up an Infinite Campus student account to check grades from home.

Grade percentages

50% Daily Assignments/Quizzes, 40% Major Tests/Projects, 10% Homework.

Homework

Intermediate schools will provide for homework-free extended holidays (Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring Break)

Please note: in the event of an absence, missing assignments will be indicated as a grade of ‘1’ in Skyward.

TEST RE-TAKE POLICY

Students who fail a major test / assessment (below 70%) will be allowed to retake or correct for a maximum grade of 70%. All retakes or corrections must be completed prior to the end of each six-weeks grading period unless the student is afforded time, after the six-week grading period, as a result of the district’s absent/make-up guidelines.

Students are encouraged to attend tutorials upon the teacher’s recommendation. Parents will receive information regarding the tutorial schedule.

LATE WORK POLICY

Attendance – Regular school attendance is essential for students to gain the maximum benefit from teacher-led and school activities. An unexcused tardy will result in action being taken in accordance with school policies. See school discipline policy regarding citations and other violations.

1 class day late – maximum grade of 85%

2 class days late – maximum grade of 70%

More than 2 class days late – teacher’s discretion

TESTING:

Advanced notice will be given for Curriculum Based Assessments (CBA).

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class participation is important for the success of the class. Students are expected to display participation assessed for participation.

CLUB / UIL ELIGIBILITY (‘No Pass. No Play)

Semester grades are computed by averaging the numerical grades recorded for each of the three six week reporting periods.

Each grading period will stand alone for eligibility purposes.

A student who is declared academically ineligible after a six-week grading period will be able to regain eligibility if all of the student’s grade averages are 70% or higher at the subsequent 3-week grade reporting period.

See MISD Board Policy FM (LOCAL) – Exempt Courses.

TARDIES AND ABSENCES

Students may be assessed a penalty of no more than 15 points per day for up to three days before a zero may be given for work not turned in on time.

MISSED EXAMS/ASSIGNMENTS

Students are allowed to make-up assignments or tests after excused absences. Students will have the same number of days they are absent to make up work. Students should consult with the teacher after an absence to identify work that needs to be completed. It is the student's responsibility to get the assignments from the teacher. Students can look at the assignment book kept in classroom for missed assignments.

LAB SAFETY

The science lab is a great opportunity to discover and learn; however, it can be a place of danger if common-sense precautions aren't taken. Students are expected to learn and follow general safety guidelines to keep the lab a safe place. Goggles will be worn when directed by the teacher. Closed toe shoes (not sandals) must be worn in the lab to prevent injury. Horseplay is not allowed. Additional precautions will be announced prior to certain experiments. Students who choose not to follow all safety rules will be removed from the activity. MISD lab safety agreements must be signed and a lab safety quiz must be passed with 100%.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

A student found cheating or aiding in cheating will receive a grade of zero on the assignment and the teacher will contact the parent. Cheating will include being in possession of another student's assignment without the teacher's permission.

AVAILABLE SUPPORT SERVICES

The teacher is available by appointment for student support/tutoring. Library resources enhance classroom studies and are available for checkout and use.