

Sixth Grade Science 2019-2020  
Mr. Kriesberg

This year in Middle School, we are in the first year of a three-year plan to implement a new learning sequence that is informed by the Next Generation Science Standards. The standards aim to integrate scientific learning with real-life phenomenon to allow students to more actively engage with scientific principles. Over the next three years, topics from life, physical, and earth sciences will be distributed across 6th to 8th grade to show connections between scientific disciplines, enabling students to develop a better understanding of the world in which they live.

**Course Description:** In sixth grade, students explore and learn about the topics of ecology, the nature of science, structure of matter, thermal energy, and human impacts. Many of the lessons are hands-on and when possible take advantage of the school grounds. There will also be class discussions, small group work, journaling, and direct research. The STEM Fair puts the student in the role of being an expert as they report the results of their research on the effectiveness of household products. This course is designed to build on the necessary skills essential to learning and doing science to prepare the students for subsequent Middle and Upper School science courses. My goal is to enhance each child's sense of wonder, knowledge, joy, and reverence for the world in which we live. A focus on student-centered learning helps them better understand scientific ideas and methods.

**Materials:** Students are expected to bring the following to every class: chrome book, planner, science folder, journal and pen or pencil.

**Grading:** The course emphasizes the students' responsibility for their work and to their fellow students. Grades are based on class involvement, which includes ability to stay on task, listen to directions, cooperate with classmates, and contribute to class and small group discussions, written tests, student reflections, hands-on assessments, and homework assignments. Students are encouraged to attend extra help if necessary to review more challenging materials.

**Homework:** There will approximately one or two assignments a week. This include a nature entry that is done outdoors. There are occasional long-term projects.

**Academic Integrity:** In keeping with the academic honesty policy, the work that any student brings to class should be his or her own.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns [dan\\_kriesberg@fa.org](mailto:dan_kriesberg@fa.org)