Fifth Grade Instructional Plan for Science: First Semester

Course Overview

Fifth grade science in Texas is an integrated science course with a strong emphasis on life science. Students will explore various topics across physical properties of matter, different forms of energy, and changes in the Earth, while developing critical thinking, scientific inquiry, and problem-solving skills. Instruction is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), with a focus on building a deep understanding of key concepts through hands-on lab investigations, STEM experiences, and real-world application. Students will engage in scientific practices, use evidence to construct explanations, and learn how science connects to everyday life.

Throughout the year, students will:

- Hands-On Investigations: frequent TEKS-aligned labs
- Interactive Notebooks: Used for vocabulary, diagrams, notes, and reflections
- Modeling & Simulations: Digital and physical models to support abstract concepts
- Collaborative Learning: Group activities, peer discussion, and cooperative lab work
- STEM Challenges: Engineering design activities tied to real-world problems
- Spiraling Review: Reinforcement of previously taught standards across the year

Contact Information

Teacher Name: DeAnna Bowers
Email: deannas.bowers@midlandisd.net

Classroom Expectations

Our classroom is a safe learning place, which encourages teamwork, positive feedback, and academic achievement. All students will be respectful to others. We will be good listeners to the teacher and to other's ideas. All students will be hard working contributors in the process of getting their education in order to be successful and reach their full potential.

Expectation 1: Be respectful
- Use appropriate voice level
- Raise your hand, and wait your turn to speak
- Listen to all instructions and directions
- Stay in your seat and wait for teacher permission

Expectation 2: Be responsible
- Complete all assigned tasks
- Be prepared: Have all necessary materials

Expectation 3: Be safe
- Always keep your hands and feet to self
- Walk at all times
- Report problems to an adult

Expectation 4: Be ready to learn and try your best every day!
- Come to class on time
- Prioritize daily attendance

Positive reinforcement and clear routines will help students learn and meet these expectations. If expectations are not met, the teacher will first reteach and remind the student(s) of expectations. If a student continues to fail to meet expectations, they will be redirected, then parents will be contacted. If a student is unable to meet expectations after these preventative measures, an office referral will be made.

<u>Daily Consequences</u>

Level 1: Reteach Classroom Expectations
Level 2: Individual reminder with name on board

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Level 3: Modification/Redirection add a check next to name.
Level 4: Two checks by name parent contact and Office Referral

Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Regular attendance is vital to your child's academic development. Fifth grade is an important year in science - this year lays the foundation for future science courses. When students attend daily, they stay current with new skills, deepening their knowledge of the world, develop thinking skills, and practice important habits that support lifelong learning.

Please notify the school if your child will be absent. Frequent or extended absences may make it more difficult for your child to learn necessary foundational skills that ensure student success this year and in future school years.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the first semester, students will be able to:

- Safely conduct an investigation.
- Compare and contrast matter based on measurable, testable, or observable physical properties.
- demonstrate and explain that some mixtures maintain physical properties of their substances such as iron filings and sand or sand and water.
- compare the properties of substances before and after they are combined into a solution and demonstrate that matter is conserved in solutions.
- investigate and explain how equal and unequal forces acting on an object cause patterns of motion and transfer of energy.
- design a simple experimental investigation that tests the effect of force on an object in a system.
- such as a car on a ramp or a balloon rocket on a string
- demonstrate that electrical energy in complete circuits can be transformed into motion, light, sound, or thermal energy.
- demonstrate and explain how light travels in a straight line and can be reflected, refracted, or absorbed.
- demonstrate that Earth rotates on its axis once approximately every 24 hours and explain how that causes the day/night cycle and the appearance of the Sun moving across the sky, resulting in changes in shadow positions and shapes.

Course Resources

- Chromebook (provided by Midland ISD)
- Notebook and writing utensils (part of the school supply list)
- SAVVAS
- Science Penguin

Grading Policy

According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:

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Teachers are expected to use a variety of types of student work performance to assess student achievement. The teacher should choose those which are most appropriate to the class, the students, and the TEKS/SEs under study.

Students will receive minor assignment feedback within three to five school days. Major assignments such as research projects, group projects, and research papers or other long-term projects shall receive a final cumulative grade within ten school days. However, the teacher shall award interim minor assessment grades for individual steps in the process.

Major assignments - 40%
Minor assignments - 60%
Which may include homework; however, homework may not constitute more than one fourth of the minor assessment summative grade.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!

Please fill out the portion below and return this portion to your teacher.
We acknowledge that we have read and that we understand the expectations in 5th Grade Science. We agree to contact the teacher should we have any questions or concerns regarding this instructional plan.

Parent Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Parent Signature : _____

Student Signature: _____

Date:_____