



Sixth Grade Instructional Plan for Science: First Semester

Course Overview

Sixth grade science in Texas is an integrated science course with a strong emphasis on life science. Students will explore various topics across biology, earth science, chemistry, and physics, while 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: Beatrice Sanchez

Email: beatrice.sanchez@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 prepared with supplies

- Prioritize attendance
- Be ready to learn everyday

Expectation 2: Participate actively and take responsibility for your learning

- Complete all assigned tasks
- Engage in class discussions, writing tasks, labs, and learning opportunities
- Complete work on time

Expectation 3: Be safe

- Handle lab equipment and materials with care
- Walk at all times
- Report problems to an adult

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.



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Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Regular attendance is vital to your child's academic development. Seventh 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:

Using SAVVAS, students will develop science knowledge such as:

- Safety and how to conduct an investigation
- Comparing and contrasting elements and compounds
- Distinguishing between physical and chemical changes
- Comparing speed and velocity to understand motion
- Analyzing the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces
- Patterns and effects of thermal energy
- The effects of plate tectonics
- The influence of human activity on different water systems

Course Resources

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

Grading Policy

According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:

The summative evaluation of a student's grade during a recording period should be based on sufficient data collected in class in the form of various assessments. Regular and periodic assessment of student progress ensures a student has ample time for remediation.

Students must receive feedback on every graded assignment within three to seven days. Major assignments will receive feedback within ten days. Teachers will, at a minimum, communicate with students and their guardians every ten school days regarding upcoming assessments, classroom reminders, learning topics covered in class, and/or expectations. Regular communication may be electronic through the adopted Student Information System or other messaging applications. Teachers will maintain a parent communication log during each grading cycle.

Major assignments - 60% Minor assignments - 40%
Semester exams count as 15% toward the final semester grade



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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 6th 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: _____