



# 5th Science Instructional Plan: First Semester

## 5th Grade Science Course Overview

Welcome to 5th Grade! This year, students will build critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills through engaging and standards-based instruction aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). We will be using the Amplify curriculum in Science Penguin and SAVVAS to provide rigorous, high-quality content that supports student growth and success. Our goal is to foster a learning environment where all 5th graders grow academically, socially, and emotionally—preparing them for a successful transition to the next grade level.

## Learning Objectives

Our focus during Science Instruction will be on building foundational understanding of scientific concepts, developing inquiry skills, and fostering a positive attitude toward Science. The students will learn about the key areas of Science. The students will also learn how to conduct scientific investigations, analyze data, and to communicate their discoveries effectively.

## Units of Study for First Semester

### Unit 1 Scientific Method

This first unit is important because it teaches students about the safety and the Scientific Method. The students will learn how to organize their investigations, how to collect data, and most importantly, how to follow safety rules. The students will learn how to identify and create a hypothesis and record their data in a professional manner.

### Unit 2A Properties of Matter

Unit 2 creates an understanding that matter is anything that has mass and takes up space. The students will identify and describe the properties of matter by learning to differentiate between physical and chemical changes, and understanding that matter is made of tiny particles (atoms and molecules).

### Unit 2B Mixtures and Solutions

This unit introduces students to science basics about creating and identifying mixtures and solutions. A mixture is a combination of two or more substances that retain their individual properties and can be physically separated. A solution is a special type of mixture where one substance dissolves into another and creating a uniform appearance and making separation of the substances more challenging.

### Unit 3 Force and Motion

This unit on force and motion explores how forces cause objects to move or change their motion. The key concepts include the types of motion, balanced and unbalanced forces and how gravity and friction affect objects. Students will also learn about simple machines and their role in changing the direction or the magnitude of force.

### Unit 4 Energy Transformation and Circuits

This unit will teach students that energy can be transformed from one form of energy to another and that electrical circuits facilitate these transformations. Common forms of energy include chemical energy, light energy, mechanical energy, sound energy, thermal energy and electrical energy.

### Unit 5 Light

In this unit the students will learn that “Light” is a form of energy. It travels in a straight line away from the light source. The students will also learn how light can be reflected or refracted.

### Unit 6 Earth’s Rotation

This unit will teach students about the Earth’s rotation and how it spins on its axis. The students will also learn about the day/night time cycle and seasons.

### Unit 7 Earth’s Changes

Unit 7 teaches students about the events that cause change to Earth’s surface. The students will learn about the slow changes caused by weathering, erosion and deposition and the fast changes that are caused by volcanoes, earthquakes and landslides.



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## 5th Grade Classroom Expectations

### Our Goal: A Safe, Respectful, and Responsible Learning Environment

In 5th grade, we work hard to build independence, leadership, and strong work habits. We follow the following expectations to help everyone feel safe, respected, and ready to learn every day.

#### Expectations:

1. Be Safe
2. Be Respectful
3. Be Responsible

#### What That Looks Like in Our 5th Grade Classroom:

##### 1. Be Safe

- Walk calmly in the classroom and hallways.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- Use supplies and classroom tools correctly.
- Follow safety directions during drills and class activities.

##### 2. Be Respectful

- Listen carefully when others are speaking.
- Use polite words and a kind tone.
- Follow directions the first time.
- Treat others the way you want to be treated.
- Take care of classroom materials and shared spaces.

##### 3. Be Responsible

- Come to class prepared with supplies and a positive attitude.
- Turn in assignments on time and do your best work.
- Stay focused during lessons and work time.
- Ask questions and ask for help when you need it.
- Own your actions-make things right if you make a mistake.

#### Additional 5th Grade Expectations:

- Be a role model: Younger students are watching—set a good example.
- Use technology wisely: Follow digital citizenship rules when using Chromebooks or devices.
- Work as a team: Collaborate respectfully in group work and class discussions.
- Prepare for middle school: Practice organization, time management, and problem-solving.

These expectations are reviewed regularly and reinforced with praise, positive reinforcement, and consistent consequences. They help our classroom run smoothly and support every student's success. Students who do not adhere to the district, school, and classroom expectations will have consequences. Consequences will follow the district and school guidelines as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and the South Elementary School Handbook. Links are provided in Class Dojo.

#### Course Resources

Science Curriculum – Science Penguin, SAVVAS



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### Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Student attendance is directly correlated to student achievement. If the student is not at school the student loses support in language acquisition, academic support, and falls further and further behind. This in part can also have a social consequence. Students with high absenteeism tend not participate in class for fear of not knowing, and the possibility of peers making fun of them.

Please be aware that even an excused absence is an absence. The difference between an excused absence and non-excused absences is that an excused absence allows students to make up missed work. Also, after 10 absences the district may take legal action on the parent.

### 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

Through systemic, explicit, and research-based instruction, students will gain the skills to become fluent, proficient, capable readers, writers, and communicators. We will provide literacy opportunities that empower all students to access information, express ideas verbally and in writing, think creatively and critically, and make informed decisions that shape the world around them. Students will engage with complex texts in order to gain knowledge coherence, and will be provided daily opportunities to produce text-based writing.

### Grading Policy

*According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:*

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.

### School-wide System of Communication

South Elementary will use Class Dojo as the main means of communication along with parent/teacher phone calls, email, and letters/notes when needed. Please be sure to join your child's Class Dojo. 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!

### Contact Information

Teacher Name: Johnny Saldivar

Email: [johnny.saldivar@midlandisd.net](mailto:johnny.saldivar@midlandisd.net)

Phone: 432-240-8100

### 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. 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: \_\_\_\_\_



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Date: \_\_\_\_\_