

Welcome!

Hephzibah Middle School

2020-2021

6th Grade Science Course Syllabus

Teacher: Ms. Takisha Burke

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“Success does come to you; you go to it” – Marva Collins

Welcome to Sixth Grade Science!

Sixth grade is a year full of new adventures and discoveries. It takes courage to begin any new endeavor and this one is no exception. You and your child are entering a place that is growing, expanding, changing, and always learning. It is a year of transitions and development. Each of us is an integral building block for the future we all envision, and while that is exciting, it is also a big responsibility for students, parents, and teachers alike. Collaboration and accountability are the cornerstones for creating a successful learning environment.

In my classroom, I believe it is important for students to feel safe and respected. We will work all year long to establish a room filled with friendships, pride, trust, and high self-esteem. I want you to feel that you are in a place where you can comfortably be yourself all while learning and growing to be the best you can be. I also believe that the students, parents, and teachers must work as a team to achieve the goals in front of us. I am so happy to be a part of that team with you!

One of my greatest passions lies in creating student mindfulness and teaching self-awareness. While learning new things can be challenging, I intend to teach students a variety of strategies to work through their struggles and empower themselves to learn and grow. In this environment, students can work to their highest potential, give their best selves, and in turn, produce their best work.

Lastly, I believe that communication is the key to a successful school year. This is a very important transition year for your child and it will take each of us to make it successful. Please feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns regarding social, emotional, or academic growth. Together, we will make this school year one to remember. I am truly looking forward to getting to know every one of you and learning beside you this year.

Course Description:

Science consists of a way of thinking and investigating, as well as a growing body of knowledge about the natural world. To become literate in science, students need to possess a sufficient understanding of fundamental science content knowledge, the ability to engage in the science and engineering practices, and to use scientific and technological information correctly. Technology will be infused into the curriculum and the safety of the student is always the foremost in instruction.

In science, this year students will explore a range of physical, earth, and life science topics as a lens through which to learn the process of scientific inquiry. By the end of this course, students will know the basic principles of ecology, geology, chemistry, waves, astronomy, and more. Units and lessons are designed to help students experience the power of scientific discovery through hands-on learning, inquiry, and critical thinking.

Expectations:

From students, we expect a willingness to grow, to realize that no matter what your past school experience has been or where you are on the academic continuum, there is always room for us all to learn and become better people. We expect students to treat our people and our spaces with respect. We expect students to strive to be visible and valuable in and out of class and to be ever mindful of their contribution to our growing culture. We are all responsible for what kind of school HMS ultimately becomes.

Classroom Expectations:

1. No cell phones (unless indicated by the teacher)
2. Behave in a manner that reflects the good and appropriate behaviors you have been taught at home,
3. Be on time
4. Come to class daily with your supplies, and assignment
5. Learn the material that is taught to you.
6. Raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged before you share.

Consequences:

1. Students-Teacher Conference
2. Verbal Warning
3. Call parents/guardian
4. Parent conference
5. Referral to administration

When you're in the classroom/school:

1. Respect and value all members of the Hephzibah Middle School faculty, staff, community, and visitors.
2. Follow the directions of adults the first time they are given.
3. Raise hands and wait for permission before speaking or leaving your seat.
4. Remain focused and listen to peers and adults.
5. Participate actively and give your all to the lessons.

*During the school year we will go over these expectations extensively so we are all on the same page and so there is no confusion.

Classroom Management:

In our class, students will be required to demonstrate positive behavior during class. Students who display disruptive behavior will receive team/school consequences. Students who consistently show appropriate behavior will be positively rewarded with praise, positive note sent home, small rewards, and other special privileges. On the other hand, students who demonstrate distracting, disruptive, or disobedient behavior will have consequences.

Discipline Plan:

The teacher will place comments on her/his disciplinary contract and contact the parents to schedule a conference. Let's avoid the "D-Behavior" (distracting, disruptive, and disobedient) so we can all resolve the problem.

Science Grading Policy:

40% - Summative (Tests) & Projects

25% - Formatives (Quizzes)

25% - Class Assignments

10% - Participation and Homework

Student Supplies:

- ✓ No. 2 Pencils
- ✓ Erasers
- ✓ 2 inch 3-Ring Binder
- ✓ Page Protectors
- ✓ Loose Leaf Paper
- ✓ Page Dividers
- ✓ Colored Pencils
- ✓ Good Quality Ear Buds
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Highlighters
- ✓ Pens (black, blue, and red)

Contact Information:

I can be reached at:

Phone: 706-688-9047

E-mail: burketa@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

If you call please leave a message and I will get back to you within 24 hours. The text is preferred. If you email I will reply within 48 hours. Please sign the tear-off slip below, and have your child return it to me. Thank you for your help, and I look forward to working with you and your child this school year!

Please cut the bottom and return.

By signing below, we acknowledge that we have read and understand the Course Syllabus for 6th grade Science 2020-2021. Please sign this sheet and return the syllabus to Ms. Burke:

Student Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Cell Phone Number: _____

Parent E-mail Address: _____