AR Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School

6th Grade Earth Science Syllabus

Mrs. Watson, Room 510

Remind code: @ARJ6sci

Email: [WatsoCa@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us](mailto:WatsoCa@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us)

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

My name is Cassie Watson. This is my second year teaching. I have a degree in Mathematics from the University of North Georgia, a degree in Middle Grades Education for science and mathematics from Augusta University, and I am working on my master’s degree in science education. I am originally from St. Louis, Missouri, but I moved to Augusta in 2011. I enjoy watching movies, listening to music, baking, and reading. I strive to create a warm, welcoming environment and approach every difficult situation as an opportunity to learn. I am very excited and look forward to a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Watson

**Course Overview**

Welcome to 6th Grade Earth Science! This exciting and interactive course will take you on a journey to explore our planet and its many fascinating systems. We’ll delve into topics like:

* **The Earth’s Structure**: Learn about the layers of the Earth, including the crust, mantle, and core, and how they interact.
* **Rocks and Minerals**: Discover different types of rocks and minerals, their properties, and how they form.
* **Weather and Climate**: Study weather patterns, climate zones, and the factors that influence the weather around us.
* **Natural Disasters**: Explore earthquakes, volcanoes, and other natural phenomena, and understand their causes and effects.
* **Earth’s Resources**: Examine renewable and non-renewable resources and discuss their importance and conservation.
* **The Water Cycle**: Understand how water moves through the environment and its role in sustaining life.

**Units to be taught**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| August- September | Solar System |
| October | Earth, Moon, and Sun |
| November-December | Earth’s Changing Landscape |
| January | Water in Earth’s Processes |
| February | Climate and Weather |
| March | Human Energy Needs |
| April-May | Year in Review |

**Launchpad, Canvas, and Textbook:**

* Launchpad is our single sign on platform. All the apps/webtools that students will access throughout the school year, in all their courses, can be found here. You may also download the Classlink app to your device to access Launchpad from your phone or tablet.
* Our learning management system, Canvas, can be found in each student’s Launchpad. The courses they are registered for will be displayed on the Dashboard in Canvas. Click on each course to find announcements, assignments, and all online instruction. You may also download the Canvas app for parents and the Canvas app for students to your cell phones or tablets.
* All 6th graders will receive a textbook. There is also an online textbook that can be accessed through Launchpad by using the “Connect ED” icon.

**Supply List for Science:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Binder (or section  of a binder) | Blue or black pens | 2 or more sharpened pencils |
| Loose leaf paper | Hand pencil sharpener (with container attached to hold the shavings) | Colored pencils, markers, or crayons (student preference) |
| Ruler | Scissors | Glue sticks (1 or 2) |

**Science Wish List (Not necessary but donations greatly appreciated!!!):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Disposable gloves (latex free) | Paper towels |
| Hand sanitizer | Disinfecting wipes |
| Tissues | Sticky notes |
| Dry erase markers (thin ones) |  |

**Grades:**

This year we will have 2 semester report cards. Semester grades will be determined by the cumulative semester average using the following criteria:

* Minor grades: 60% (quizzes, labs, mini projects, and other graded assignments)
  + There will be a minimum number of **5** minor grades per 6-week progress report period
* Major grades: 40% (tests, essays, research papers, projects, and other culminating assessments)
  + There will be a minimum number of **2** major grades per 6-week progress report period

**Late/Missing Assignments:**

Late work is defined as assignments that are submitted after the specified deadline. This does not apply to work submitted late due to absence from school. Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Multiple incidences of late work may result in teacher-student-parent conferences to examine and correct the student’s work habits through an academic contract. Scores may be reduced by 5% per school day for a maximum 25% reduction (5 school days). Late work submitted after the 5th school day will be accepted at the teacher’s discretion.

**Relearn/Reassess:**

Students who perform below 70% on a major assignment will be given the opportunity to relearn and reassess to show improvement in their mastery of the standard. Students will submit a Relearning Plan as part of this process, which should include:

* Analysis of their errors or misconceptions on the previous major assignment
* Complete assignments provided to relearn the content for mastery. Students may also attend a tutoring session.
* Complete and turn in any missing assignments.
* Commit to date(s) and time(s) to redo the assignment or retake the assessment.
* Share the plan with their parent and teacher for approval and signatures.

Upon satisfactory completion of the plan, as determined by the teacher, student should be given a minimum of one opportunity to be reassessed.

Teachers should have discretion to determine if R&R opportunities will be given for any minor assessment.

**Tutoring:**

Tutoring is available with Mrs. Watson as needed by appointment only. Most availability will be after school. Please contact me (Mrs. Watson) if you are interested.

**Classroom Expectations and Goals:**

* Be on time and be prepared. (Seated quietly and ready to work with all class materials when the bell rings)
* Be respectful of yourself, the teacher, school staff, and others.
* Conduct yourself in a manner that is safe, considerate, and responsible.
* Respect the property of others. (If it’s not yours, LEAVE IT ALONE!)
* No cell phones are allowed out in class or in the school building at any time. Phones should be turned OFF and put away. This is a Georgia law.
* Laptops are only to be out or used when a teacher instructs it is time to use them.

**Consequences:**

* Warning
* 1st offense: Review expectations and parent contact
* 2nd-3rd offense: Classroom consequences (change of seat, behavior form, lunch detention) and parent contact
* 4th offense: Mandatory parent conference
* 5th offense: Classroom consequences and parent contact
* 6th offense: Office referral

\*If the offense is severe, student will be sent directly to the office with a referral.

**Reinforcement for positive behavior:**

* Extra privileges and classroom rewards
* Grade level rewards (ex: fun /free Friday)
* Happy parents and teachers!

**Syllabus Acknowledgement Form (please return by Monday, August 11th)**

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read and reviewed the syllabus for 6th grade science taught by Mrs. Watson. I understand the expectations, procedures, grading policies, and classroom rules outlines in the syllabus.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the syllabus and I agree to follow the guidelines described.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_