

6th Grade: Science

Teacher: Ms. Walsh

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Class Description:

Sixth grade science at Waters Elementary is a dynamic and challenging program. Through inquiry-based learning, which includes hands-on lab activities and experiences, students will ask and answer meaningful and thought provoking questions, share new and important knowledge with others and practice scientific processes. Through these methods students will learn the concepts that lead to understanding this ever-changing dynamic planet on which we live. Sixth grade science at Waters will teach students to think, read, write, and argue like real scientists and engineers while providing students with a basic knowledge of our planet and our solar system, with special emphasis on how this knowledge relates to them and their personal range of experiences. They will have opportunities to apply knowledge to solve problems through the engineering design process or to address regional ecological issues. Students will work in collaborative groups during active investigations with firsthand experiences involving phenomenal in the natural world. Beyond that, it is my goal to teach my students to develop an understanding of, and appreciation for, the basic concepts of science.

Materials:

- Interactive Science Notebook (ISN)
- Student Planner
- Writing Utensil

Classroom Expectations:

- Be responsible
- Be respectful
- Be accountable
- Be organized

Units of Study:

- Land, Water, and Human Interactions
- Earth's Systems
- History of Earth
- Weather & Climate
- Human Impacts
- Space Systems

Classroom Expectations:

Every student is expected to follow the classroom rules listed below:

- Students are required to follow lab safety procedures. Remember: Safety is always first!
- Be responsible (follow directions, stay on task, be on time)
- Come to class prepared (bring required classroom materials, homework, and be ready to learn)
- Always show respect, be nice, raise your hand to speak, listen when others are speaking
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself
- Science materials are to be treated with care. Improper use of any equipment will cause parent contact and future lab privileges to be taken away, could result in an administrative referral.
- Students should write all homework, tests and quizzes in their planners daily.

Grading: Grading is done on a percentage system for our content areas as follows,

40% =Summative Assessments include but not limited to: Unit Tests, Projects, and Major Assignments etc.

25% =Formative Assessments include but not limited to: Quizzes, Exit Slips, ISN Checks etc.

25% =Classroom Activities include but not limited to: Daily Classwork, Labs etc

10% =Homework include but not limited to: ISN Understandings, Reflective Responses, ISN Output etc

Grading Scale:

90%-100% =A

89%-80% =B

79%-70% =C

69%-60% =D

59%-Below =F

Lab Safety: Since we will be doing lab investigations throughout the year, safety is a top priority. All rules must be followed at all times! It is expected that students behave and conduct themselves like young adults. We went over these safety rules over the first week of school and a contract was sent home for you and your student to review, sign, and return. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter!

Homework/Make-Up Work: Homework will be given on a regular basis. All assignments are due the next day at the beginning of class, unless otherwise stated. Late work, (homework and in-class assignments) that are missing due to an absence must be turned in upon return. Assignments turned in late for other reasons will have points deducted from them. A student who has an absence from class is to be permitted to make up those assignments that they have missed. It is the student's responsibility to inquire about the work that was missed. Students know to locate missing handouts from the "We Missed You" folders. Late assignments will be penalized by having points deducted.

Reflection Sheets: We learn from reflecting on experiences, good and bad. A Reflection Sheet is a very effective tool to use when a student is displaying unacceptable behavior. These sheets will be used to help correct undesired behaviors. The sheet will be signed by the parent and returned the following day. If the student behavior is serious, they might have an immediate lunch detention or referral.

1. Warning: the teacher provides a verbal reprimand/reminder (three strikes in most cases)
2. Detention: short time spent contemplating conduct
3. Referral to Administration: a student will be immediately referred to administration for severe behavior problems

Communication: Parents are strongly encouraged to sign up and use ParentPortal to access their student's grades from home over the internet at any time. Assignments are posted on a daily basis in the classroom; students are responsible for updating their planners everyday. Please review the planner with your child to ensure that assignments are being completed.