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2019-2020

Course Syllabus: 6th Grade Science

Vision/Mission Statement

Natomas Middle School provides an equitable and safe environment where students work as a community of resourceful and global-minded citizens who respect diversity. All students use inquiry & critical thinking, creativity and communication skills to construct meaning from information and experiences. All students are challenged to develop their passion, solve real-world problems and sustain an attitude of life long learning.

The additional mission of the science department is to ensure that all students participate in a rigorous, hands-on, inquiry based, standards based curriculum that emphasizes conceptual understanding and goes beyond the acquisition of science facts.

Course Description

The sixth grade science curriculum provides extensive opportunities to practice and master science processing skills introduced in the grade course. The emphasis will be on the Earth Sciences as a preparation for 7th grade science. The topics in the 6th grade course are: Plate Tectonics; Earth Structure and Surface; Astronomy; Earth Systems; Ecology and Natural Resources; Weathering and the Solar System.

Things You Will Need/Supplies:

- ◆ **Textbook:** Holt Science and Technology: Earth Science
One textbook will be checked out to each student. Students are advised to cover their textbooks, as they are responsible for any damage incurred during the year.

 - ◆ **Checklist of Materials needed everyday:**
 - **Most important:** 2 Composition Books (any color, cheapest at Office supply stores) □ One Notebook
 - 1. □ tab for science section in school binder □ small scissors □ pencils (#2) □ Binder paper □ Straight-edge ruler □ Highlighter * Agenda (provided 1st day of school)
- THESE MATERIALS must be brought to class everyday! ←
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Class Expectations and Requirements:

- ◆ **Attendance/Tardy Policy:** Students should be in class whenever possible. The hands-on nature of science makes class-work challenging to make up. Missed laboratory work will need to be made up at school and it is the responsibility of the students to arrange time to make up the work with the teacher.
- ◆ **Homework:** will be assigned regularly and will be either reinforce work lesson from class or prepare students for the next lesson. Not all homework will be given a letter grade but is required to be completed.

Behavior: In addition to my class rules, students are expected to follow all Natomas Middle School and NUSD rules.

Grading Policy:

Percentage	Grade
90% - 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
Below 60%	F

<u>FIRST QUARTER</u>	<u>SECOND QUARTER</u>	<u>THIRD QUARTER</u>	<u>FOURTH QUARTER</u>
Introduction to Earth Science; General Science Instruction; Earths Systems; Natural Resource; The overexploitation of natural resources.	Earths structure and surface; Plate Tectonics; Natural Disasters	Weathering and Erosion; Oceans and Atmosphere	Earth's place in the universe: The Solar System: Stars, galaxies and the Universe

The purpose of grading assignments is to communicate levels of achievement to students and parents. To this end, grades will be issued based on the quality, accuracy, and mastery of the standards demonstrated in the work. Some work is for practice and will not receive a letter grade but will be checked off or reviewed. Students will be graded with Rubrics (scoring guides with clearly articulated levels of achievement) often and will be given the chance to revise work based on feedback. Revision will be based on **teacher discretion and will have a time limit**.

Student Academic Expectations:

Students are expected to do their best work. Participation is important and students should actively participate in their lab groups and in whole class discussions. All classwork must be completed by the students and turned in on time. Students will be given the opportunity to revise some work in order to take advantage of feedback given to them. In order to revise work, it must be done on time. Revision will have a time limit and will be to the teacher's discretion. It is expected that they **WILL** revise their work when given the opportunity. Test and quiz scores will be final.

Students will be required to keep a science notebook for each standard based unit. The notebook will contain notes, reflections, labs, authentic assessment tasks, and teacher directed work. The notebook will be assessed based on quality of work, completeness, and mastery of standards and skills. The purpose of the notebook is to provide a centralized place for students to complete work and show conceptual understanding of the standards that goes beyond basic knowledge. The notebook will be assessed with a Rubric that will be distributed to students. **It is the students' responsibility to have their notebook everyday and not lose it.** Lost notebooks must be re-done in timely manner.

Homework is assigned for several reasons:

- For practice and reinforcement of lessons covered in class.
- For preparation so that students begin a lesson with important background information.
- For extension, providing the student with an opportunity to apply the lessons of the day to more complex tasks or projects.

Homework may be assigned daily including over weekends or longer breaks for any or all of these reasons. Due dates and expectations for large assignments will be given in advance and students are expected to manage their time to accomplish all the assigned tasks.

Student Behavior Expectations:

- All Science teachers will uphold the school rules at Natomas Middle School (See NMS Student handbook)
- Be in your seat with the **student agenda open** with a pen or pencil out when the bell rings.
- Equip yourself with the tools necessary to be successful -textbook, notebook/binder/folder, writing utensil and assigned materials.
- Attend class regularly; grades and citizenship are negatively affected by poor attendance.
- Respect the teacher's right to **teach**, and the student's right to **learn**.
- If a student chooses **not** to meet classroom expectations, a series of consequences can occur depending on the **severity** of the student's actions, such as a private conference, a time-out/buddy room, a detention, a parent phone call, an all-teacher conference, a Friday Night School, or a referral to Administration.

Detentions may be issued for not adhering to classroom, or school rules. Every reasonable effort will be made to contact the parent within 24 hours upon issuance of the detention.

Homework/Late Work/Make-Up Work Policies Expectations and Policies

When students are absent from school, **they** are responsible to get the missing assignments from me as soon as possible. A good idea is to have a classroom 'buddy' to exchange phone #s with to find out what they missed. All classwork and homework is posted on my teacher page through the NMS website. They should still see me the day they return to be sure they receive any handouts or other necessary details. One day for every day absent is given for **EXCUSED** absences only.

Grade Checks

Students may periodically receive progress reports which will require a parent's signature and to be returned to the teacher.

Tutoring Schedule

Students will receive a tutoring schedule when it becomes available.

Student Name: _____ (please print)

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I have read and understood the policies and procedures contained in this syllabus.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Comments: