

# 6th Grade Science

## 2023-2024 Syllabus

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### Part 1: Course Information

#### Instructor Information

Instructor: **Jennifer Robison**

School Telephone: **423-623-4947**

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Student **grades** and **academic information** are available throughout the year within **Aspen**.

#### Course Description

The state framework for sixth grade Science has content emphasis on the following::

1. Physical Science
2. Life Science
3. Earth and Space Science
4. Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

#### Textbook & Course Materials

##### Provided Texts and Resources

Provided Texts and Resources

Online: Science, Tennessee edition (McGraw Hill)

Textbook: Science, Tennessee edition (McGraw Hill)

Chromebook 1:1

\*Teacher will supply any required texts that will be used throughout the year. There is one class set provided, so students will not be bringing them home.

#### Course Structure

This class is a combination of lecture, discussion, and activity-based lessons.

#### Online Resources

- TN State Standards for Science: <https://www.tn.gov/education/districts/academic-standards/science-standards.html>
- Cocke County Schools Website: <http://www.cocke.k12.tn.us/>

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### **Part 2: Student Learning Outcomes**

The eight Science and Engineering Practices (SEP) reflect the types of engagement a scientist or engineer encounters as part of their work and should be incorporated in a grade-appropriate manner in all grade.

**AQDP** - Asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for engineering) to determine what is known, what has yet to be satisfactorily explained, and what problems need to be solved.

**MOD** – Developing & using models to develop explanations for phenomena, go beyond observable & make predictions/test designs

**INV** – Planning and carrying out controlled investigations to collect data that is used to test existing theories and explanations, revise and develop new theories and explanations, or assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and durability of designs under various conditions

**DATA** – Analyzing and interpreting data with appropriate data presentation (graph, tables, statistics, etc.), identifying sources of error and the degree of certainty. Data analysis is used to derive meaning and evaluate solutions.

**MATH** – Using mathematics and computational thinking as tools to represent variables and their relationships in models, simulations, and data analysis in order to make and test predictions.

**CEOS** – Constructing explanations and designing solutions to explain phenomena or solve problems.

**ARGS** – Engaging in argument from evidence to identify strengths and weaknesses in a line of reasoning, to identify best explanations, to resolve problems, and to identify best solutions.

**INFO** - Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information from scientific texts in order to derive meaning, evaluate validity, and integrate information.

The seven Crosscutting Concepts (CCC) reflect conceptual understandings that transcend any particular discipline, yet permeate into mastery-level understanding of any given discipline.

**PAT** – Pattern observation and explanation

**CE** – Cause and effect relationships can be explained through a mechanism

**SPQ** – Scale, proportion, and quantity that integrate measurement, appreciation of scale in natural events, and precision of language

**SYS** – Systems & system models with defined boundaries that can be investigated & characterized by next three concepts

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EM – Energy and matter conservation through transformations that flow or cycle into, out of, or within a system

SF – Structure and function of systems and their parts

SC – Stability and change of systems  
 The eight Science and Engineering Practices (SEP) reflect the types of engagement a scientist or engineer encounters as part of their work and should be incorporated in a grade-appropriate manner.

### Part 3: Topic Outline/Schedule

#### Overview of 6th Grade Science

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Time of Year	Name of Unit
August	Factors in an Ecosystem
August/September	Interactions Between Organisms
September	Transfer of Energy within Ecosystems
October/November	Biodiversity
November	Conservation
November/December	Energy
Jan/February	Energy Transfer
Feb/March	Heating of the Earth
March	Weather
April/May	Review/Testing

*\*Listed dates are subject to change slightly at the teacher's discretion.*

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### Part 4: Grading Policy

#### Graded Course Activities

#### Late Work Policy

\*Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no makeup assignments or quizzes, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and instructor approval.

#### Viewing Grades in ASPEN (optional)

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the ASPEN Gradebook. Click on the My Grades link on the left navigation to view your points.

Instructor will update online grades each time a grading session has been completed—typically three days following the completion of an activity. You will see a visual indication of new grades posted on your ASPEN home page under the link to this course.

#### Letter Grade Assignment

Homework/Classwork/Participation -90% Science grade

Test/Project/Quiz - 10% Science grade

\*Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Performance
A	90-100%	Excellent
B	80-89%	Good
C	70-79%	Average
D	60-69%	Poor
F	0-59%	Failing

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### Part 5: Course Policies

#### Attend Class

Students are expected to attend all class sessions as listed on the course calendar.

#### Participate

Students are expected to participate in classroom discussions, group activities, etc. Students will be held accountable by group rubrics.

#### Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your teacher know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming a successful student. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise.

#### Complete Assignments

Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances. All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect the student's grade.

#### Academic Dishonesty Policy

1. Academic dishonesty includes such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism and helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty. It usually involves an attempt by a student to show possession of a level of knowledge or skill that he/she does not possess.
2. Teachers have the initial responsibility for detecting and dealing with academic dishonesty. Teachers who believe that an act of academic dishonesty has occurred are obligated to discuss the matter with the student(s) involved. Teachers should possess reasonable evidence of academic dishonesty. However, if circumstances prevent consultation with student(s), instructors may take whatever action (subject to student appeal) they deem appropriate.
3. Teachers who are convinced by the evidence that a student is guilty of academic dishonesty shall assign an appropriate academic penalty. If the teachers believe that the academic dishonesty reflects on the student's academic performance or the academic integrity in a course, the student's grade should be adversely affected. Suggested guidelines for appropriate actions are: an oral reprimand in cases where there is reasonable doubt that the student knew his/her action constituted academic dishonesty; a failing

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grade on the particular paper, project or examination where the act of dishonesty was unpremeditated, or where there were significant mitigating circumstances; a failing grade in the course where the dishonesty was premeditated or planned.

#### Student Testing Code of Ethics and Security

It is important for you as a student to know that the following guidelines are to be strictly followed. This year the TNReady test will count at least 10% of your final semester grade. Your work on this test is very important and it deserves your best effort.

I understand that during testing on the days of the assessment, I am responsible for:

- Not having any electronic devices on me or in my purse/backpack/pockets  
Including but not limited to cell phones, smart phones, smart watches, etc. during testing or during breaks.  
Best practice is for students to leave devices at home or in their lockers on the day of testing.  
If I am caught with a device during testing or during breaks, my test may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 10% of my final semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.
- Trying my best on the test  
If I do not attempt to test (I give no answers or randomly answer questions) my test score may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 10% of my final semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.  
The testing administrators and proctors in the testing environment will determine if no answers or random answering is taking place.  
I will focus and put forth effort on the test.
- Being honest and not cheating  
If I am caught cheating (taking pictures of the test, writing down and passing answers, talking to other students, looking on other computers, using software outside the testing platform), my test may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 10% of my final semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.

**Important Note:** Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may be reported to the office of student affairs.

**Course policies are subject to change.** It is the student's responsibility to check for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be posted in the classroom.