

Earth Science Syllabus

Capitol Hill Middle School

Earth Science 6 is a year-long earth science course that covers basic middle school earth and space concepts. You will learn about weather, geology, earth's systems, and space systems. We will use observations, laboratory investigations, and problem solving to analyze and understand the science of everyday earth and space phenomena.

Materials to Bring to Class Everyday:

- Science only binder (we will keep these in the classroom)
- Charged iPad
- Pen or pencil

Standards and Benchmarks:

This course follows the 2019 Minnesota state science standards for middle school Earth Science. These standards and benchmarks are covered in the following units:

Unit	Time
Safety, Rituals, Routines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Practicing how to stay safe, collect detailed data, make observations, and communicate with classmates 	2 weeks
Light and Matter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exploring how light interacts with objects 	3 weeks
Thermal Energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Experimenting with how energy transfers between and within objects 	4 weeks
Weather and Climate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exploring the impacts and causes of weather events ● Understanding the factors that affect climates around the world 	8 weeks
Geology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examining evidence that can be used to understand the geologic history of Earth ● Understanding the causes and ways that Earth's landscape can change over time 	7 weeks
Natural Hazards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examining ways that humans can engineer solutions to lessen the impact of extreme natural events 	4 weeks
Earth in Space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Modeling the relationship between objects in our solar system 	8 weeks

This course uses inquiry activities in an experimental setting, with a strong emphasis on the content and the process of science and the engineering design cycle. We will explore scientific concepts through group and individual work. Activities may include hands-on activities, modeling, projects, scientific investigations, real-world observations, data collection, data analysis and discussions.

Grading:

The goal of this class is for students to demonstrate proficiency or mastery on the science standards. We will do several practice activities leading up to assessments. If a student does not perform well on one or more parts of an assessment, re-learning and re-assessments are available.

Practice assignments (labs, class notes, textbook readings, etc.) will make up 20% of the student grade.

Assessments (quizzes, tests, and projects) will make up 80% of the student grade. Students who have completed the practice assignments of a unit as well as a review sheet will be able to retake quizzes when ready. The *highest* score will be put into Schoology.

Assessments will be graded on a 4-point scale reflecting how well the learner has mastered each part of the standard. The proficiency scale is:

Mastery at advanced level	4
Proficient at standard	3
Meets standard at a basic level	2
Progressing toward meeting at basic level	1
Not yet progressing toward meeting/no evidence	0

Grades and assignments can be accessed at schoology.spps.org

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I am looking forward to a fun year of scientific discovery!

