**6th Grade Honors Earth Science**

**Dr. Justin Spurley**

**Email:** [**justin.spurley@clayton.k12.ga.us**](mailto:justin.spurley@clayton.k12.ga.us)

**Class Website:**  <http://eliteearthscience.weebly.com/>

**Fall 2018**

1. **Course Description and Content**

Science consists of ways about thinking and investigating as well as a growing body of knowledge about the natural world. The relationship between science, our environment and our everyday world is crucial to each student’s success. In order to better understand this relationship, the overall goal of the earth science curriculum is to provide students with the knowledge and skills for proficiency in science at the sixth grade level. This course is designed to give students an overview of common strands in earth science including, but not limited to, meteorology, geology, astronomy, oceanography, resources and human impact on earth. In order to facilitate this learning for students, units have been developed according to the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE). A link to the GSE for 6th grade Earth Science is provided below:

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Documents/Science-Sixth-Grade-Georgia-Standards.pdf>

In addition to the content, students will be expected to think, read and write critically about the course content. It is not enough for students to “get the right answer” as they need to be able to explain their reasoning and apply their reasoning in different contexts. All projects, exams, and classwork assignments will require critical thinking, in-depth reading, and writing.

1. **Course Textbook**

The student textbook for this course will be provided by the teacher. The information about the book is below. This book is not intended to be a guide for the course as it is primarily used as a reference and for practice activities.

**Title:** Interactive Science: Earth Science Edition, Pearson Publishing

**Optional Reading:** What’s Really Happening to Our Planet? By Dr. Tony Juniper

1. **Course Website**

Students and parents, each teacher has a website posted that can be accessed through the Elite Scholars Academy main webpage. Each website will contain updates and course announcements for each class as well as information about different assignments and projects. Students, you will need to get used to accessing each website for each teacher. To get to the websites, click the following web page and follow the instructions below:

1. http://099.clayton.k12.ga.us/
2. Hover over “Departments”, then over “Academics”
3. Click the appropriate tab for grade level or for Fine Arts, Physical Education, and World Languages.
4. Explore the websites.

# Evaluation Process, Description of Requirements and Grading Policies

**Evaluation Categories Grading Scale**

1. Classwork Assignments 45% A 90-100
2. Projects 15% B 80-89
3. Quizzes 15% C 71-79
4. Summative Assessments (Tests) 15% D 70
5. Homework Assignments 10% F 69 and below

**Classwork Assignments (45%):**

This evaluation category will include any in class assignments, notebook checks (random or scheduled), journal entries and daily focus assignments. Additionally, this category will also include laboratory assignments.

* **Laboratory Assignments and Conduct:**

Lab activities are a crucial part of any science course. This course is no different. Not only will you be expected to FULLY participate in lab activities, you will also be expected to write thorough lab reports that describe the lab and also complete any accompanying handouts that go along with the lab. *\*****Conduct during lab is also included in this evaluation. Points can and will be deducted for being off task and for laboratory misconduct.***

**Projects (15%):**

In this course you will be expected to complete various out-of-class projects. Dates and details of these assignments will be given later in the semester. I will always allow you to sufficient time to put thought and effort in these projects. Rubrics will also be given so that you will know *EXACTLY* how you will be graded. No surprises! You will also be expected to give oral presentations. I will give the details and topics later in the semester. Failure to submit projects will result in the dramatic reduction of your course grade. Always turn these in and on time…hint hint ☺

**Classroom Summative Assessments (15%):** At various intervals throughout the, students will be assessed on course content through in class exams. **At no point will these exams be released to the student for use at home.** Parents, you are more than welcome to come and view the exams before or after school but they will not be released to the students. After each exam, students will complete an item analysis so that they are able to see what they missed. We will go over all exams in class.

**Homework Assignments (10%)** Students cannot expect to accomplish what you should from this course without spending time with science outside of class. As well as completing homework assignments, you need to stay organized, spend time reviewing notes and class work assignments, carefully reflect on activities or labs completed in class, etc. It may be imperative to use the weekends for studying, working on projects, reviewing, organizing, or simply getting caught up with any work.

# Make-up Work and Late Work Policy

Parents and Students, due dates on all assignments are firm. Generally, students will have almost a week to complete homework assignments and up to three weeks to complete projects. In that vein, **late work will not be accepted**. As it pertains to make-up work, when students are absent they have as many days absent to complete and submit the work. ***It is up to the student to ask for any missing assignments.***

1. **Extra Credit:** Students always ask about extra credit. If students are doing required homework and assignments and turning them in on time, extra credit will not be needed. There will be no extra credit assignments (assignments to improve a students’ grade) given at any time during any semester this school year. However, students may be able to earn extra points or bonus points on different assignments and projects throughout the year. Extra credit on any given assignment is at the discretion of the teacher.

**6th grade Earth Science Standards of Acceptable Work**

***“Your work is a reflection of you!” Mr. Spurley***

Parents and students, please understand that work that does not adhere to ***ALL*** of the standards of acceptable work will not be graded. Before you submit work to me, or any other teacher, please use the following as a reference:

1. **Edges on Notebook Paper**: Please remove those “squiggly/rough” edges off the ends of all work submitted to me. I will not accept the work until those edges are gone. Bring regular loose leaf notebook paper with you to class daily. I do not have notebook paper to supply to you.
2. **Torn or Damaged Paper:** Please make sure that your work is not torn or damages when you submit. If it is, you can expect that I will not accept it and that you will need to re-write it if you would like a grade for it.
3. **Pen:** All assignments will be done in blue or black ink! No exceptions. Pencil will only be used for illustrations and some exams. If you need to buy erasable ink pens, please do so. White-out is unnecessary.
4. **Scratch-Outs:** If you make a mistake, please draw one line through it and keep going. I will not accept ANY work that contains scratch-outs. You will have to write it over. No white out!
5. **Margins:** The red margins on sheets of notebook paper are there for a reason. Please don’t write outside these margins. I am not accepting ANY work that contains handwriting outside the margins. You will have to write it over for me to accept it.
6. **Proper Heading**: All assignments must contain the proper heading. If your work does not contain the heading, I will NOT accept it until the proper heading is on the paper. We will discuss this in class.

**Required Course Materials for Science Class:**

1. Coloring Supplies (colored pencils, markers, crayons)
2. Ruler
3. Several Ink pens (Standard blue or black ink only. No fancy variations of blue!)
4. One-inch three ring binder, with at least 5-dividers
5. Glue stick

# Course Outline (TENTATIVE)

**Please note that I will be using this as a logical sequence of topics, not a pacing guide. Due to the organic nature of learning, deviations will be necessary as we move through the content.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1st Quarter (July-September 2018)** | | |
| **Units** | **Topics** | **Georgia Standards of Excellence** |
| **Introduction to Science (~3 weeks)** | Classroom Norms |  |
|  | What is Science? What do Scientists do? |  |
|  | Laboratory Safety |  |
|  | Mathematics Skills/Data Analysis in Science |  |
|  | Metric System Conversions |  |
|  | Earth In Perspective |  |
|  | Branches of Earth Science |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Astronomy/Space Science**  **(~4 weeks)** | The Solar System and the planets | S6E1 |
|  | Gravity and Inertia | S6E1 |
|  | Eclipses | S6E2 |
|  | Moon Phases | S6E2 |
|  | The Seasons | S6E2 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2nd Quarter (October-December 2017)** | | |
| **Units** | **Topics** | **Georgia Standards of Excellence** |
| **Geology** | Minerals | S6E5 |
|  | Rocks and the rock cycle | S6E5 |
|  | Weathering, Soil, Erosion, and Deposition | S6E5 |
|  | Natural and Alternative Energy Resources | S6E6 |
|  | Fossils | S6E5 |
|  | Layers of the Earth | S6E5 |
|  | Continental Drift and Plate Tectonics | S6E5 |
|  | Plate Motion, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes | S6E5 |

**\*An updated syllabus will be given in January 2019 to reflect the course curriculum for the third and fourth quarters.**

**Please sign below to indicate that you have read and understand the course syllabus and policies for 6th grade Earth Science class, including the standards of acceptable work. Please place this syllabus in the front of your notebook and return this signed page to me (Dr. Spurley) in class. You will receive a grade for just submitting this completed.**

**Student Name (please print):**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Homeroom:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature** Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name (Please Print)**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## **Parent Signature** Date

**Working Email Address (please print clearly):**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Contact Phone:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_