Sixth Grade Earth Science Syllabus, 2012-2013

Haynes Bridge Middle School

770-740-7030

Text: Earth Science Holt, Rinehart, Winston $70.75

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COURSE DESCRIPTION and OUTCOME EXPECTATIONS

***Course Description***

The 6th grade Earth Science Curriculum provides students with the necessary knowledge and skills in earth science. The course is designed to provide students with an overview of the common concepts in earth science including but not limited to meteorology, geology, astronomy, hydrology, and impact of humans on the earth, resources utilization and conservation. These concepts are investigated through observing, collecting, summarizing, analyzing, and presenting the results of replicated scientific investigations

and fieldwork for students to develop the appropriate skills in science as inquiry.

***Outcome Expectations***

At the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Use appropriate scientific tools to observe, record, organize, interpret, write, and present the results of scientific investigations clearly and accurately.
2. Relate the nature of science to basic historical theories regarding the evolution of the universe including the Big Bang.
3. Describe the relative position and motion of objects in our solar system, galaxy, and the universe; explain their effects.
4. Describe the composition, location, and topography of the world’s oceans.
5. Recognize the role of water in earth’s water-related processes including water cycle, waves, currents, tides, wind systems, distribution of heat, weather, and climate.
6. Identify and describe the structure and nature of the earth’s crust, mantle, and core.
7. Explain the effects of earth’s structural movements on geologic features and physical processes such as tectonics, volcanic eruptions, currents, tides etc.
8. Classify rocks and explain the processes involved in their formation and cycle.
9. Describe the various sources of energy, their uses, and conservation including the sun, renewable, and non-renewable sources.

# Course Outline

**Semester I:**

1. Safety Skills

2. Scientific Inquiry Process

3. Metric System

4. Geology; including the following:

- Elements, Mixtures, Compounds

- Mineral Properties

- Rock Types

- Constructive and Destructive Forces

- Topographic Maps

- Energy Sources

- Earth History

- Earth Composition

5. Hydrology

- Water Cycle

- River Systems

- Fresh Water

- Ocean Composition/Floor

- Currents, Tides, and Waves

- Ocean Life

**Semester II:**

1. Meteorology

- Atmospheric Gases/Layers

- Weather Maps and Forecasting

- Heat Energy

- Air Pressure, Air Masses, and Winds

- Moisture in the Air/Clouds

- Climate

2. The Universe

- Planets, Asteroids, Comets, and Meteorites

- Sun, Moon, and Earth Relationships

- Origins of the Universe

- Stars and Star Systems

- Space Program

- Space Technology

3. Environmental Concerns

**Fulton County Grading Scale:** 90->100 = **A**, 80 -89 = **B**, 70-79 = **C**, Below 70 = **F**

**Grading Weights/Percentages:**

All grades will be recorded and averaged numerically as follows:

Tests and Projects – 40% ; Labs – 30% ; Quizzes – 20% ; Daily work/Homework - 10%

**Honor Violations:**

Any students found guilty of plagiarism, copying homework assignments, etc. will receive a grade of 0 (zero) on the assignment or test. Parents will be contacted by the teacher. Please see page 13 of the Agenda for more information.

**Special Projects:**

Special Projects may include Research, Oral Presentations, and other Investigations.

**Suggested Materials and Supplies:**

3-5 lined index cards (4x6 or 5x8), composition notebook, markers, scissors, display board

**Homework Expectations:**

Homework is a daily reality. If a student has no assigned written work or reading work, then reviewing, studying, and re-reading are encouraged.

**Behavioral Expectations and Procedures:**

Please refer to the letter sent home with first day packet.

**Middle School Recovery Process from the Board policy on Grading and Reporting**

**Provisions for Improving Grade:**

1. Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance.
2. Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

**Scheduled Help:**

If a student needs assistance before or after school, he or she needs to make arrangements a day in advance so that both parents and the teacher are aware.

**Teacher/Parent Communication:**

6th grade teachers are generally available for scheduled conferences on most days, between 2:00PM – 3:15 PM, with the exception of Wednesday. Grade reports will be sent home every 4 1/2 weeks. In addition, parents should check the Student Agenda daily for notes from teacher. Teachers may be reached by email at the addresses listed under the heading.

**Absence Make-Up Procedures:**

* **Make-up work:** Announced work, such as homework, quizzes, tests, and other major assessments are due the day the student returns.  For each day’s excused absence, student will have one day to make up missed work.  If a student is absent under extenuating circumstances, special arrangements can be made to make up work.  **IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO REQUEST MISSED WORK.**

Please sign and return the bottom portion

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Please sign below to confirm that you have received the **EARTH SCIENCE** syllabus.

Parent’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Science Teacher \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_