

**Course Title:**  
**Grade 6 Advanced Physical Science**

**Contact Information:**

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**Program/Course Understandings:**

Students will understand that science is a way of learning about the world through asking questions, thinking critically, conducting investigations, solving problems, collecting and analyzing data, and communicating findings. Students will study the following concepts/topics and look at how they affect their everyday lives including: Skills of a Scientist, Scientific Inquiry Methods, Matter, Energy transformations, Energy in the Environment, Motion, Forces, and the Engineering Process.

***What makes this course Advanced?***

Students will experience a compacted curriculum with more time for students to explore/investigate the content in-depth. The course will focus on learning through inquiry and an integrated use of technology into the curriculum to aide in the learning. Students in this class will take their own notes on assigned sections outside of class in order to build background content knowledge allowing class time to be used for tackling misconceptions, clarifying information, and hands on learning. Students in the Advanced Science course will also be conducting a Science Fair Project and strongly encouraged to attend the district STEM Fair on Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Champlin Park High School. The Science Fair project will be weighted as 20% of trimester two's grade.

**Expectations for Students:**

- **Materials Needed for Science:**

- Pencil
- **1 inch 3 ring binder dedicated to only Science**
- Loose leaf paper
- 5 tab dividers (please leave in the package for us to organize in class)
- Independent reading book.
- All papers that are handed out are color-coded and three-hole punched to be filed into a specific tabbed category. All papers should remain clicked into the binder unless otherwise directed.

- **Behavior**

- Respect the right of other students to learn.
- Arrive to class on time and prepared to learn.

- **Homework**

Homework is an opportunity for students to practice learned concepts. Homework is a place to practice, make mistakes, learn from mistakes, and correct mistakes. It is the responsibility of the learner to complete all homework assignments in preparation for further learning. To find out what assignments your student should be working, you can look in your student's planner under "Science" or view all assignments in the online gradebook.

- **Online Gradebook**

I correct and enter scores as quickly as possible for you to follow your child's progress using the online gradebook. All papers that are handed out to students are posted as a resource and accessible for both students and parents to access as needed. Communication is an essential part to the success of your student. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me.

**Grading Practices:** A student's grade will be based on what they *know*. What students *know* changes over time, therefore opportunities for improving assignments or retaking tests and quizzes are strongly encouraged and opportunities are provided.

### **Standards/Learning Target Based Grading Percentage Breakdown:**

#### **10% - Practice**

Includes items such as homework, labs, and classwork.

#### **20% - Projects**

A variety of projects will be assigned during a trimester for students to apply the learning concepts in a real-life situation.

#### **10% - End of Term Final Assessment**

All students are required to take the same end of term assessment in order to demonstrate their mastery of concepts learned during the trimester.

#### **5% - Mastery Quizzes**

These quizzes will be given frequently allowing students and teacher to monitor the need for remediation and enrichment.

#### **55% - Assessments - Learning Targets Mastered**

Assessments are opportunities for students to demonstrate their mastery of specific learning targets taught in class. In order to demonstrate mastery of a learning target, students must pass each learning target assessment with a score of 80% or higher. All assessments will be completed during class time.

Each week we will focus our lessons and activities on specific learning targets. Students will take frequent quizzes, which will be given in order to inform me as the teacher and the students of their proficiency in specific areas. If students struggle in any areas, they will be encouraged and allowed the opportunity to do an additional practice or seek help. These formative assessments will count as part of the 5% Mastery Quiz category; however, students must pass or retake these quizzes to demonstrate an understanding of 80% or higher in order to earn the ability to retest if needed.

Students will also take summative assessments, which will serve as the final product in demonstrating mastery of each learning target. Unit summative assessments will be broken down into multiple scores in the grade book as they relate to each specific learning target covered.

#### **Students will earn the ability to retest on specific learning targets by meeting the following criteria:**

- Demonstrated mastery on the quiz aligned with specific learning targets (Score of 80% or higher, re-quizzes offered).
- If students struggled on a quiz (79% or lower) they must complete an extra practice assignment to help prepare them for the unit assessment.
- **All** assignments, including extra practices must be completed prior to the unit assessment.

*What if my student doesn't understand a topic and does poorly on a test? How can my student not be left behind? What if my student understands a topic really well? How can my student be challenged more?*

**Opportunities for both remediation and enrichment will be utilized throughout each specific learning target and unit throughout the school year. Please never hesitate to contact me with your concerns.**