5th Grade Science - Class Syllabus & Information

Bartelso Elementary - Mrs. Gibson – 2026-27

Science Overview

Welcome to Grade 5 Science. The framework for this class is based on the three-dimensional learning as outlined by the Next Generation Science Standards that have been adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education – integrating disciplinary core ideas, science & engineering practices, and cross-cutting concepts. The vision is to develop in our students the contextual understanding of scientific knowledge, how it is acquired and applied, and how science is connected to everything around us.

5th Grade Focus

We will begin the year with a unit on the scientific method, which is what lies at the core of any scientific investigation. We will foster the following: developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, constructing explanations, and designing and evaluating solutions.

Following this, fifth-graders will cover an array of topics that fifth grade science is comprised of, which will be built upon in 6th through 8th grades. We introduce such things as matter and its interactions; energy as it relates to organisms; interactions and dynamics of ecosystems; earth's place in the universe, earth's systems, and impacts of human activity on earth. Specific units covered will include:

- Cell Parts & Classifying Life
- Plants
- Classifying Animals
- Animal Systems
- How Organisms Use Matter & Energy
- How Organisms Interact
- Ecosystems
- Adaptations & Survival
- Changes in Ecosystems
- Cycles in Ecosystems
- Biomes

Informational Resources

- School Website
  General information regarding what we are covering in Science as well as specific information regarding projects, tests, and quizzes will be included in the weekly newsletter that is posted on the 5th grade homeroom page and hard copy that is sent with students at the end of the week. Homework assignments, projects and tests will be posted daily on the Middle School Homework web page and on my Science web page.
- Google Classroom
  Links to various videos, notes/study guides, and review Kahoots can be found on Google Classroom for 5th Grade Science.

Class Procedures & Expectations

Grades:

- Grades will be based on students' performance on homework assignments, classwork, quizzes, tests, lab activities, class participation, and various projects. Grades will be broken down as follows:

  5% of the grade → based on **participation** in lab activities, demos, & discussions
  25% of a student's grade will be made up of **homework assignments**
  30% of a student's grade will be comprised of **quizzes & in-class work**
  40% of the grade will be comprised of **tests & projects**

  A **point system** is used (rather than percentages) for all work so that individual questions are not weighted disproportionately. Students are given ample time for work. They need to put forth the necessary effort and be adequately prepared for homework and tests; therefore, there will be no extra credit work or retests given on an individual basis. I may provide extra credit opportunities for the class throughout the year as warranted; extra bonus point questions are also generally included on tests/quizzes.

- **Late work:** Assignments are expected to be turned in on time. Assignments are considered late if they are not fully completed and turned in at the beginning of class. Late work will be accepted and given credit following the middle school policy: the score for the assignment will drop by one letter grade for each day it is late, and the student will complete it during recess.

- **Absences:** If a student is absent, work must be made up within one day for each day absent to receive full credit, as per the Middle School Handbook. This includes obtaining any missed notes, completing reading & written assignments, and scheduling & making up lab activities. A homework sheet will be completed for the day missed; it can be picked up in the office after school or sent home with a family member or friend if requested. It is the **student's responsibility to turn in all work** and to verify that all assignments have been completed. Zero points will be given for any assignments not made up.

  [Please note: When students have missing work due to absences and late or incomplete work, a zero will be temporarily entered in the gradebook as a placeholder/reminder until work is completed and turned in. Credit will be given and scores entered accordingly when absent and late work are submitted and graded.]

Class Structure:

- Fifth-graders will be provided with Macmillan/McGraw's *Science- A Closer Look* textbook, however, to supplement this I will be using printed handouts and materials from a number of other teaching resources. We will highlight important concepts in the handouts and make notes to study from. Additional typed notes will be provided as needed for various lessons within a unit. (Please note: We will not necessarily be covering units from the textbook in order.)
- Reading from the textbook will be assigned both in class and as homework. Material will be presented through demonstrations, lectures, class discussions, class activities, lab activities, and individual research and exploration. Preparing and staying organized, reviewing material daily, taking good notes, participation in class and attentiveness are key for success. Any questions/concerns should be communicated with me by the student.

Materials:

- Students are responsible for having the following materials each class:
  - ✓ textbook, handouts & other materials provided
  - ✓ pencils, red grading pen, highlighter
  - ✓ 10-pocket folder & planner
  - ✓ Chromebook
  - ✓ silent reading book

- Students are expected to keep all handouts, notes, homework assignments and related materials for a given unit until we have completed the unit.

Expectations:

- **Respect for all is a top priority in the classroom.** Students are expected to follow posted classroom expectations, teacher-given directions, the posted science lab expectations, and the guidelines outlined in both the Bartelso Student/Parent Handbook and the Bartelso Middle School Handbook. Specific posted classroom expectations include the following:

Be prepared- Students should be in their seat and ready for class, with all necessary materials.

Be respectful- All actions should be conducive to everyone's learning. Students should work well with others, listen when others are speaking, only share positive thoughts with the class, use appropriate language, only use others' belongings with their permission, and clean up after themselves. A student may not infringe on another's right to an education, their mental and social well-being, or a safe environment.

Be responsible - Students should participate, stay on task, and listen to & follow both teacher directions and the Bartelso Student Handbook and Middle School Handbook policies. Students should always strive to do their best.

- **Rewards/Consequences:** Positive behaviors will be rewarded with positive feedback, student positive punch card punches with which small prizes can be earned, and quarterly Good Behavior Parties/activities. Consequences for problematic behaviors include warnings, behavior card punches resulting in detention and/or loss of participation in quarterly Good Behavior Parties, and/or an office referral.

Contact

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