

5th Grade Science Course Syllabus

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Course Philosophy

The LPS Secondary School science department philosophy is that science should be taught, learned, and assessed through a hands-on inquiry based curriculum. The scientific processes of observation, classification, experimentation, analysis, and application will be the basis for developing scientific concepts and higher-order thinking skills. The learning environment will encourage students to view knowledge as “indeterminate and open-ended” to become lifelong learners.

Textbook: We will use STEMscopes for our course curriculum. Most of the lessons on STEMscopes will be completed online and all 5th graders will be provided with a username and password to access these activities.

Grading Policy: The grading policy for absences and late work, found in the LPS handbook, will be enforced. The breakdown for calculating grades is as follows:

- Agency - 15%
- Collaboration - 15%
- Knowledge & Thinking - 40%
- Oral Communication - 15%
- Written Communication - 15%

Homework and Assignments: If a student does not finish an assignment in class, then it becomes homework that is due *before the start of the next class period*. Some assignments may be given as homework to reinforce lessons in class, and students may agree to complete some work at home during the Project Based Learning cycle.

Tutoring: For students who need extra help with science, tutoring will be available after the first three weeks of school. So that I may prepare materials and activities catered to individual students' needs, students may attend tutoring on an appointment only basis.

Behavior and Discipline: Establishing clear expectations for student behavior is one of the important roles that the teacher plays. These expectations provide students with guidelines for understanding appropriate and inappropriate behavior. Classroom expectations are established to help all students work and learn in a safe, nurturing environment. The behavior and discipline policy, found in the LPS handbook, will be enforced.

- Be on time for every class with supplies
- Maintain safety at all times
- Respect all people and property at all times
- Cell phones are NOT allowed in class
- Water ONLY. No gum. Snack breaks are at teacher discretion.

Supplies: Students are responsible for having the following supplies each class period.

- Charged Chromebook
- Lab Journal (composition notebook)
- 2 Pencils
- 2 black or dark blue pens
- Earbuds or headphones

Year at a Glance

Please note: Because all students work and learn at a different pace, the timeline presented here is subject to change to meet all students' needs. If/when this occurs, this syllabus will be updated to reflect those changes.

First 9 Weeks:

Physical Properties of Matter

Forces and Energy

Second 9 Weeks:

Forces and Energy

Earth & Space

Third 9 Weeks:

Organisms and Environments

Fourth 9 Weeks:

Organisms and Environments

Experimental Design