



**Course Syllabus**  
**Mrs. Dunigan - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science**  
Dunigan.Meghan@cusd80.com  
(480) 224-2169 classroom C203



**Welcome!**

Welcome to Sixth Grade Accelerated Science in Accelerated Middle School at Basha High School! Below is a brief outline of what we will learn, as well as classroom procedures, rules, and policies that will help to make this a great year of learning:

**Diversity Statement**

All individuals have a right to an educational environment free from bias, prejudice and bigotry. As members of the AMS-Basha High School educational community, students are expected to refrain from participating in acts of harassment that are designed to demean another student's race, gender, ethnicity, religious preference, disability or sexual orientation.

**Course Description:**

In this accelerated course, students will be taught enriched 6<sup>th</sup> grade state standards at a more challenging level. Throughout the course of study, students will be given opportunities to develop critical thinking skills through scientific inquiry. They will be guided to go beyond simply memorizing facts, but rather, to think more deeply, to question, to explore and to connect scientific concepts to the real world around them. This course blends district standards from the middle school integrated science courses enabling students to advance their science pathway. Students will participate in Science Fair enabling further development of scientific skills through practical application.

**Textbooks:**

**Prentice-Hall, Coordinated Science:**

- Earth Science, 2005, ISBN 0131901184
- Coordinated Science for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 2006, ISBN 1585913553

- We will have books checked out for each student, when possible.

**Preparation for Returning to Campus:** Students are required to bring: **pencil, eraser, colored pencils, tape/glue sticks, 3-ring binder with dividers to serve as our interactive notebook, and completed homework**

**Expectations for Class:**

1. Everyone has the right to, and should expect to, learn.
2. Each individual is worthy of respect.
3. Classroom orderliness is necessary for an effective classroom.
4. Hard work is necessary for learning.

**Earned Consequences:**

1. Warning
2. Silent Lunch Detention
3. Parent Contact
4. Referral

**Extra Help:** Please ask questions during the class discussion (both virtually and on campus), activity, or lab! Attend scheduled tutoring. If you need more individual time, we can set a time to meet. **Never be afraid or hesitant to ask for help!**

### **Additional Expectations**

- Copying and **plagiarism** are not tolerated and will result in a zero for all parties involved.
- No food, **GUM**, or drinks are allowed in the classroom. **Bottle water is permitted.**
- **Discipline Plan:** AMS Basha dress code and discipline plan will be enforced when on campus. Please refer to your handbook for school rules and policies.
- **Passes:** A set number of passes will be given. Once used, opportunity for extra credit will be lost.  
\*Medical needs will have a different plan.
- Keep all **electronic devices**, cell phones, cosmetics, and all other items not related to the learning process in a place where it will not be a distraction. \*Although there will be times when electronic devices will be allowed for research and end of unit games.
- **Internet Policy:** As technology is becoming more advanced in society, it is incorporated more in the classroom. During the year, we will be using the Internet and other software for classroom projects. If for **ANY** reason you do not abide by the school's rules and procedures for computer usage, you will **NOT** be permitted to use the computer for the remainder of the school year for. You will be given an *alternate* assignment to complete rather than use the computer as a resource. If you have any questions about this policy, please feel free to ask me.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

It is important to be present every day in class. If you are absent, PLEASE have your parent or guardian call or email to excuse you. **Your grade will reflect your attendance in this class.** If you accumulate 10 days of unexcused or excused absence, you may be subject to failing the class. You must be in your seat prepared for class before the bell rings or you will be marked tardy. Tardiness will not be tolerated and is subject to consequences that include a 5 minute lunch detention, the same day. A warning will be issued for the tardy. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tardiness will result in a phone call to the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) and a 5 minute (beginning of lunch) LUNCH DETENTION. Any further tardy **after 3** will be subject to a **referral to administration.**

### **Absences and Missed Assignments:**

*Attendance is vital to success!* Much of the learning which will take place in our class throughout the year is based on hands-on lab activities and interactive, active learning in student peer groups. It is not possible to provide these same learning experiences as make-up assignments when students are absent. Please be mindful of this when scheduling appointments or other planned absences.

- It is **your responsibility** to make up all work missed due to an absence. Failure to make up assignments may result in a failing grade. Review your agenda and check my website for assignments and due dates.
- Upon return, check the "Absent" area, review the day's agenda (update your agenda), and collect any handouts.
- If an assignment has been assigned prior to the absence, the assignment is due upon return. Any assessments and/or labs missed must be made up within 5 school days (each block day counts as a school day). Otherwise, the assessment and/or assignment will receive 0 points.
- Due dates for larger (long-term) projects are non-negotiable. If you are absent on the due date of such a project (ex. – Science Fair deadlines), the project is still due on that day and will be counted as late if you do not submit it until your return.
- Do your best to be at school for block days. If you miss a block day it is really like missing 2 days of a class due to the amount of time and material missed.

**Late work:** All assignments are expected to be turned in on their specified due date **at the beginning** of the class period in which they are due. NO points will be given for an assignment that is late. I do pass out "late passes" that can be saved and used for forgiveness - 2 per quarter. **Note: All work done on an UNEXCUSED absence day will be "zero".**

**Grading Policy:** Grades are based on weighted categories. The percentage for each category is determined by cumulative points in the quarter and calculated into a percentage.

**Grade Categories:**

Assessments 50%  
Labs/Projects 30%  
Practice Work 20%

**Grading Scale:**

A = 100%-90%  
B = 89%-80%  
C = 79%-70%  
D = 69%-60%  
F = 59% and below

**1<sup>st</sup> Semester Grade:**

Quarter 1 = 40%  
Quarter 2 = 40%  
Final Exam = 20%

**2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Grade:**

Quarter 3 = 40%  
Quarter 4 = 40%  
Final Exam = 20%

\* Science Fair participation is mandatory and will count as part of the student's lab/project grade.

***\*I reserve the right to modify any of the preceding information as needed throughout the school year.***

**Let's Have a Great Year!**

***Mrs. Dunigan***