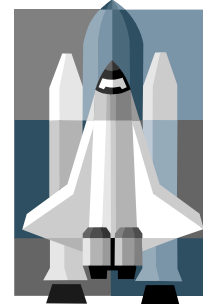


## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Earth/Space Science Mr. Bliss

[TrevorBliss@ssas.org](mailto:TrevorBliss@ssas.org)  
(941)330-1855 ext. 111



Hello and welcome to an amazing year in Earth/Space Science! I am very excited to have you all in our journey through a variety of topics, experiments and experiences. We will be covering concepts such as weather, space, water and Earth's surface. In addition to classroom instruction, we will also be doing projects such as building solar ovens, building paper rockets, creating water filters and exploring the scientific method through a science fair project. We will also experience and conduct science first hand at Mote Marine Laboratories four times throughout the year. It will be an incredible year of learning and fun!

### **Grading**

The grading in this course will consist of a variety of assessments. They are as follows:

- Classwork – 25%
- Homework – 10%
- Tests/Projects – 30%
- Quizzes – 25%
- Participation -10%

Classwork – Classwork will be assigned daily and will be assessed at least three times a week. **It is the student's responsibility to make up work missed during absences.** Sometimes classwork will be graded for completion and sometimes it will be graded for accuracy. It is very important to complete work during class, making the most of class time.

Homework – Homework is seldom with the exception of studying and projects. This means that if homework is assigned, it is crucial that it is completed for credit because there will not be many opportunities to bring this grade up. We consider most of the science fair project the homework for the first two quarters.

Tests/Projects – Tests and projects are the most challenging part of the course. The projects are assigned with plenty of advance notice and should not be done the night before they are due. Please check Edline regularly in order to be up to date on project due dates.

Tests in Science are often challenging. Tests assess concepts on all of the levels of thinking, 40% of the questions will be higher level thinking questions. This means tests will require an understanding of the content and studying. Once again, please check Edline to stay up to date on test dates.

Quizzes – Quizzes will be fairly frequent, often once a week. Quizzes will also require some studying but will not be as intense as chapter tests.

Participation – Participation is a daily assessment for classroom activity. Students are required to participate actively in class

## **Materials**

Every day, students need to bring the following materials to class: 2 pencils, 2 pens, lined paper, a three-ring binder designated for science only and an agenda book. Occasionally students will be asked to bring in certain materials from home like shoe boxes, markers, modeling clay, blindfolds, etc. In these cases, students will have plenty of advance notice and the materials are usually found around the house and do not require purchasing.

## **Class Rules**

- 1.) Respect Mr. Bliss, others, and others' stuff. (this includes school property)
- 2.) Raise your hand in order to be called on to speak.
- 3.) Be prepared to learn everyday. (This includes having a positive attitude and all materials)
- 4.) Always follow the proper classroom procedures.

## **Student Expectations**

I hold all students to the same expectations every day whether with me or a substitute.

- 1.) Always be on your best behavior acting with the utmost respect for everyone and everything.
- 2.) Always give class assignments your best efforts.
- 3.) Do not argue with other students or teachers.
- 4.) Attitude is everything. Make sure yours is positive before entering class.

## **Tentative Course Schedule**

First Quarter – Intro to science, Weather and Climate, Science Fair and Scientific Method

Second Quarter – Astronomy, Science Fair

Third Quarter – Earth's Waters, Inside Earth

Fourth Quarter – Inside Earth, Earth's Changing Surface

## **Science Fair Project**

Every student in the school is required to do a science fair project this year. The science fair project is a lengthy project spanned over 13 weeks in the beginning of the school year. The processes and due dates are split in increments so students can focus on one part at a time and the project will not be so overwhelming. This project will also be graded in increments so different components will be assigned and due at separate times with the whole project being due at the end of the 13 week period.

The science fair project is a large part of the student's grade and cannot be done the night before it is due. Even if turned only at the very end, the student will not receive credit for the dead lines of the components. Please make sure you and your parents are fully aware of the due dates to the different parts of the project and keep up with each assignment. Failure to turn in

parts of the project on time will result in a zero and a detention for not completing the assignment. The dates are as follows, please mark them on your calendar at home.

Monday 8/27

- Tentative (working) Problem Statement
- Tentative (working) Hypothesis
- Variables (IV and DV)

Monday 9/17

- Science Fair forms with parent signature

Monday 9/24

- Review of Literature
- MLA format of sources
- Procedures and Materials

<Conducting experiments and record data during this time, nothing is due>

Monday 11/12

- Data tables
- Conclusions

**\*\*Tuesday 11/27\*\***

- The Entire Science Fair Project
  - Display Board
  - Log Book
  - Research Paper

### **Mote Marine Field Trips**

We will be going to Mote four times this school year. Mote Marine offers a variety of lessons on everything including scientific studies of animals, recycling, the water cycle, etc. Mr. Bliss' classes will be going on:

Sept. 19

Nov. 7

Feb. 6

May 28

Students are expected to be on their absolute best behavior while on the field trip. Any discipline issue on a field trip will result in a county referral. Students are required to bring on the field trips: A mote marine binder, sunscreen, bottle of water, tennis shoes, disposable paper bag lunch, and hat and/or sunglasses. A mote marine t-shirt must also be purchased for the trip. If any parents are interested in chaperoning for volunteer hours, please contact me at [TrevorBliss@ssas.org](mailto:TrevorBliss@ssas.org) or (941) 330-1855 ext. 11.

## Tips for success

- 1.) Be at school. Make up work can be overwhelming when many days are missed, not to mention learning the lessons missed
- 2.) Work hard in and out of class. Your teachers hold high expectations and your future bosses will hold even higher expectations. It is important that you learn to work hard now.
- 3.) Take advantage of extra help. If someone is willing to help you at school or at home, take the opportunity for extra practice and help.
- 4.) Do not procrastinate to complete assignments. Begin working on assignments when they are assigned. Other assignments or tests may be assigned in other classes which can lead to an overwhelming amount of work.

## Discipline Plan

When a student violates a class rule, the following consequences will be served.

- 1.) The look
- 2.) Class rules writing assignment
- 3.) Behavior Essay
- 4.) Detention
- 5.) County Referral (Suspension from school)

Student or parent refusal for student to write classroom rules or behavior essay, and also a refusal to do a morning detention will be considered as a fifth offense.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I will respond within 24 hours.

---

I have read and understand the syllabus.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_