



Class Syllabus

2024-2025

Instructor:

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School

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Science and
Social

Grades
6th-8th

Grassy Fork
Elementary
School

Date

Course Outcomes

6th Grade SS:

Ancient Civilizations:

Identify major ancient civilizations (Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, China, India) and their contributions to society (government systems, technology, culture, religion).

Geography Basics:

Understand basic geographic concepts like continents, oceans, climate zones, and map reading skills.

Historical Inquiry:

Practice basic historical research skills using primary and secondary sources to answer questions about the past.

Cultural Understanding:

Compare and contrast different cultures across ancient civilizations.

7th Grade SS:

Medieval and Early Modern Era:

Explore the major events and figures of the Middle Ages (Feudalism, Crusades, Black Death) and the Renaissance (art, science, exploration).

World Geography:

Analyze the geography of different regions, including population distribution, economic activity, and environmental challenges.

Civic Responsibility:

Understand basic principles of democracy, citizenship, and government systems.

Historical Analysis:

Analyze cause and effect relationships between historical events and evaluate different perspectives on historical issues.

8th Grade SS:

US History to the Civil War:

Examine the development of the United States from colonial times through the American Revolution, Constitution, westward expansion, and the Civil War.

Economic Concepts:

Understand basic economic principles like supply and demand, markets, and economic systems.

Social Studies Research:

Conduct in-depth research projects using a variety of sources, including primary documents, to support arguments and conclusions.

Critical Thinking:

Analyze complex historical issues, evaluate multiple perspectives, and form informed opinions.

6th Grade Science Outcomes:**Life Science:**

Plant and animal life cycles, ecosystems and food webs, human body systems, heredity and traits

Earth Science:

Earth's systems (geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere), rocks and minerals, climate and weather patterns, the water cycle.

Physical Science:

States of matter, basic properties of materials, energy types, energy transfer (heat, light, sound)

Key Skills:

- Identifying variables and controls in experiments
- Collecting and analyzing data from observations
- Describing scientific phenomena using appropriate vocabulary
- Constructing simple models to explain scientific concepts

7th Grade Science Outcomes:**Life Science:**

Cell division and reproduction, classification of organisms, genetics and inherited traits, human body systems in more detail, Links among Engineering, Technology, Science, and Society

Earth Science:

Earth and Human Activity,

Physical Science:

Matter and its interactions, Structures and processes from molecules to organisms, Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

Key Skills:

- Designing and conducting scientific investigations
- Interpreting data using graphs and tables
- Communicating scientific findings in written and oral formats
- Applying scientific concepts to real-world situations

8th Grade Science Outcomes:

- **Life Science:** Microorganisms, human health and disease, ecosystems and biodiversity, artificial selection
- **Earth Science:** natural resource management and hazards, rocks and plate tectonics, Earth's history
- **Physical Science:** Forces and motion, properties of matter, electricity and magnetism, waves and their properties

Key Skills:

- Analyzing complex scientific data and drawing conclusions
- Evaluating scientific evidence and arguments
- Understanding the relationship between science and technology
- Applying scientific principles to solve problems

State Standards Links:

- <https://www.tn.gov/education/districts/academic-standards/social-studies-standards.html>
- <https://www.tn.gov/education/districts/academic-standards/science-standards.html>

Instruction

- Pacing Guide:

6th-Social Studies: Units: Foundations of Human Civilization, Ancient Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt **1st Cumulative Benchmark**, Ancient Israel, Ancient India, Ancient China **2nd Cumulative Benchmark**, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome **Final Comprehensive Benchmark**

7th-Social Studies: Units: East Asia, Byzantine Empire, Southwest Asia and North Africa **1st Cumulative Benchmark**, West Africa, Middle Ages in Western Europe **2nd Cumulative Benchmark**, The Renaissance, The Protestant Reformation, The Scientific Revolution, Indigenous Civilizations of the Americas, Age of Exploration **Final Comprehensive Benchmark**

8th-Social Studies: Units: Colonization, American Revolution **1st Benchmark**, The New Nation, Growth of a Young Nation **2nd Cumulative Benchmark**, Sectionalism and Reform, The Jacksonian Era, Expansion and Division of the Nation (1820-1860s), The Civil War and Reconstruction (1860-1877) **Final Comprehensive Benchmark**

6th-Science: Units: Factors in an ecosystem, Interactions between organisms, Transfer of energy within ecosystems **1st Cumulative Benchmark**, Biodiversity, Conservation, Energy **2nd Cumulative Benchmark** Energy Transfer, Heating of the Earth, Weather **Final Comprehensive Benchmark**

7th-Science: Units: Atoms, Molecules, and Mixtures, Physical and Chemical Properties, Law of Conservation of Mass, States of Matter **1st Cumulative Benchmark**, Cells, Multicellular Organisms **2nd Cumulative Benchmark**, Cycling of Matter, Reproduction, Mitosis and Meiosis, Heredity, Biomaterials, Earth's Atmosphere and Climate **Final Comprehensive Benchmark**

8th-Science: Units: Forces and Motion, Magnetism **1st Cumulative Benchmark**, Waves, Universe **2nd Cumulative Benchmark**, Rocks and Plate Tectonics, Natural Resources and Hazards, Earth's History, Artificial Selection **Final Comprehensive Benchmark**

- Chromebooks, Textbooks, Lab Manuals/Notebooks, Pencils, Lab supplies will be provided as needed
- Resources-Textbooks: **SOCIAL STUDIES** 6th- Textbook and Online Textbook: World History & Geography: Ancient Civilizations, Tennessee edition (McGraw Hill), 7th- Textbook and Online Textbook: World History and Geography: The Middle Ages to the 1700s (McGraw Hill) 8th- Textbook and Online Textbook: United States History and Geography (McGraw Hill) **SCIENCE** 6th-8th Integrated Science Glencoe McGraw Hill
- Safety Procedures- [See student handbook]
- Intervention opportunities- Planned remediation with teacher (assigned weekly), After school program, RTI program weekly based on diagnostic testing

Assessment and Grading

- Grade Scale-
 - A:** 90–100%
 - B:** 80–89%
 - C:** 70–79%
 - D:** 60–69%
 - F:** 0–59%
- Grade in the courses are weighted as follows: **50% Tests, 40% Performance Assessments**-essays, labs, poster projects, oral presentations, **10% Daily Assessments**-quizzes, and other daily work assignments
- Make-Up Work and Late Work Policy- [Make-up work is due within 3 days upon return to school] [Late work will have a 10 point deduction each day the assignment is late]
- Grade Posting Policy - Grades are posted daily

General Expectations

- Students
 - Attendance Policy (See handbook)
 - Discipline- 1st infraction-verbal warning, 2nd infraction-penalty, or deduction in playtime, 3rd infraction-referral to principal
 - Reward Trip Requirements: Good attendance (4 or less days missed per semester) and good behavior (No principal referrals or suspensions)

Plagiarism

- Plagiarism regarding generative AI (see board policy)

- According to Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition: Plagiarism is defined as “presenting someone else’s ideas, research, or opinions as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased.”
- This includes but is not limited to:
 - Copying verbatim all or part of another’s written work;
 - Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;
 - Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source;
 - Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.
- Consequences of Plagiarism
 - Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accept a letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment.

Religion in the Classroom

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion - and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective, and respectful manner in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Religious themes may be a part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
2. The inclusion of religion shall be for educational purposes only;¹
3. The emphasis on religious themes should be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of the curriculum. Such studies shall never be used to proselytize, establish, foster, or demean any particular religion, religious tenets, or beliefs; and¹
4. Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated.