

Course Expectations for Accelerated Science 7

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Bob Miller Middle School

I. Course Scope and Goals

This one year course is designed to introduce middle school students to accentuated concepts of Earth, Space, and Environmental Science through a hands-on inquiry driven approach towards research, experimentation, and problem solving. The curriculum will present students with fundamental concepts of ecology, geology, astronomy, oceanography, and meteorology. These will relate towards advancing studies or career opportunities.

Goals and Objectives

1. To develop an understanding of scientific methods, techniques, and terms used to study and solve problems related to the Earth, its environment, and the surrounding universe.
2. To demonstrate skills in the safe and proper use of field and laboratory equipment.
3. To develop a view of the Earth as a dynamic system involving the flow of matter and energy in cyclical processes.
4. To understand the biotic and abiotic components of ecosystems and the similarities and differences of geographically distinct ecosystems.
5. To recognize the composition and properties of the atmosphere, including winds, pressure systems, weather formations, and forecasting tools.
6. To explore the solar system and understand its influences on the Earth.
7. To apply basic concepts of ecology to local, national and / or international environmental topics such as pollution of the soil, air, and water; as well as the conservation and recycling of natural resources.
8. To develop the awareness of the geological history of Earth, and the constructive and destructive forces involved in the continual transformation of Earth's surfaces.
9. To become aware of the extent and importance of oceans in shaping the surface of the Earth, in addition to the key role of oceans in the water cycle and weather influences.
10. To develop an understanding and awareness of the career opportunities in the Earth, Environmental, and Space Sciences.
11. To utilize higher cognitive thinking skill in addressing social, economic, and political impact on societies resulting from natural and man-made environmental change.

Additionally, the goals of science instruction are for ALL students to:

- ❖ Reason scientifically and think flexibly.
- ❖ Communicate scientifically.
- ❖ Understand science concepts and value scientific study.
- ❖ Exhibit confidence in the ability to solve scientific problems.
- ❖ Collect, manipulate, and present data using proper mathematical methods.

II. Performance Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be expected to:

1. Apply good study skills reinforcing critical analysis, thinking skills, and organization of information.
2. Understand dynamics of the Earth's forces that continue to shape it.
3. Use scientific equipment to measure and investigate scientifically.
4. Apply steps of the scientific method.
5. Use media and technology to study scientific events and topics.

III. Course Topics and Timeline

<u>WEEKS</u>	<u>TOPICS</u>
Week #1	Introduction to Earth Science Orientation and class / lab safety rules
Weeks #2-7	Unit I—Dynamic Earth Investigations # 1-7
Weeks #8-16	Unit II—Rocks and Landforms Investigations #1-8
Weeks #17-20	Unit III—Fossils Investigations # 1 & 4
Weeks #21-28	Unit IV—Climate and Weather Investigations #1-8
Weeks #29-36	Unit V—Astronomy Investigations #1-8
Week #37 Week #38	Course Wrap-up / Conclusion Final Exam Weeks

IV. Course Assessment

Tests—Period-long examination given at the end of all major units of study. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any cheating or plagiarism by a student will result in the following:

1st offense = zero grade and parental notice

2nd offense = zero grade, Dean's referral, and parental notice.

NOTE: Unit tests may be administered at each completion. A Mid-Term / Final Exam will be given at the end of each semester, and will count for no more than twenty percent (20%) of the overall final course grade. Test grades will account for no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of each quarter grade.

Quiz—Ten to twenty minute examination given periodically during a unit of study.

Project—May be in-class or at home assignment spanning over a week or more. May also include essays. Students are expected to turn in all long-term assignments **on time with no exceptions!** Students absent the day the project is due, must turn in the assignment **the day** they return to school!

Homework—

- In accordance with CCDS, Bob Miller Middle School, and S.E. Region guidelines: Homework will comprise up to 30% of the student's final grade. Homework will not be assigned on weekends or Holidays. Any given assignment should be completed in no more than twenty minutes.
- Homework **MUST** be submitted at the beginning of the period. If homework is not submitted at the beginning of class, it will be considered late. Each day homework is late, it will be assessed a 25% penalty, with a zero given after the third day.
- Homework assignments will be listed on the board daily, and students will be verbally reminded of assignments.
- Homework assignments can also be found on my.ccsd.net weekly.

**If you are handing in a homework assignment late because you were absent on the day it was due, it is your responsibility to write "ABSENT" on the top of the homework assignment, otherwise, the homework assignment will be graded as if it were late.

Classwork: Students are expected to complete certain assignments in-class. These assignments may include, but are not limited to the following:

Labs—Worksheets or lab reports that accompany in-class laboratory investigations.

Worksheets—In-class assignments that may be completed individually, or in groups.

NOTE: Any student caught sharing work on any assignment will receive a zero grade unless prior approval is given towards cooperative learning.

Make-Up Work—As a result of an approved absence, the teacher shall provide an opportunity for a student to make-up missed assignments. After any such absence, it is the responsibility of the student to check that period’s absentee folder upon their return to school. The due date for missed assignments will be decided by the teacher.

V. Textbook

“Investigating Earth Systems” (an inquiry Earth science program). From: its ABOUT TIME, Inc. The replacement cost for the book, if it is not returned at the end of the year or in accompaniment of withdrawal, is approximately \$60.

Recommended Student Supplies

1. Composition book or bound notebook to for Science only.
2. A section of a 3-ring binder divided into three sections labeled notes, homework, and graded papers.
3. Office supplies such as pencil, blue or black ink pen, lined paper, and a calculator (optional).

VI. Evaluation

Grades can also be accessed through the internet via Parent Link. Grades will be updated at least once a week.

Student grades will be earned through:

Quarter Grades:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Tests and Quizzes: | 20% |
| 2. Projects: | 20% |
| 3. Interactive Notebook: | 30% |
| 4. Homework/Classwork: | 20% |
| 5. Vocabulary: | 10% |

Semester Grades:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Quarter 1 (or 3): | 40% |
| 2. Quarter 2 (or 4): | 40% |
| 3. Semester Exam: | 20% |

Letter grades represent the following:

- A = 89.5-100% = Excellent
- B = 79.5-89.4% = Above Average
- C = 69.5-79.4% = Average

D = 59.5-69.4% = Below Average
F = 0 – 59.4% = Failing

VII. Behavioral Expectations

Student classroom behavior will be awarded a citizenship grade based upon CCSD and BMMS / 7th Grade Team Teaching guidelines. Citations for negative behavior will be issued and accrued towards the student's aggregate citizenship grade. Citizenship grades are based on the following:

O = Outstanding No tardies, gum citations, and or discipline referrals
S = Satisfactory 1-3 tardies, 1-2 gum citations, and no discipline referrals
U = Unsatisfactory Tardy referral or Dean Referral

Rules and guidelines have been posted and discussed with students.

Each student should individually strive for and maintain the following:

1. Be Respectful—
 - Show respect and courtesy to others and the learning environment.
 - For appropriate attention, raise your hand and wait to be called upon.
 - Remain attentive and studious during instruction.
2. Be Responsible—
 - Come to class prepared with the correct materials, assignments, and planner.
 - Be in the classroom and on task when the tardy bell rings.
3. Verbal or physical abuse, or profanity will result in disciplinary action.
4. Follow all science class and lab rules, and the 7th grade team teacher rules.
5. Follow CCSD and BMMS rules and guidelines.
6. If necessary, consult your teacher for assistance and additional support.

Failure to comply will result in the following progressive discipline plan:

1. Verbal Warning
2. One-on-one student conference
3. Parent/ Guardian Contact and/or Teacher's Detention
4. Dean's Referral

(PLEASE SIGN AND SUBMIT THIS PAGE ACKNOWLEDGING RECIEPT)

BOB MILLER MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE EXPECTATION SIGNATURE PAGE

TEACHER: Ms. Stratton

SUBJECT / GRADE: 7th Grade Science - Accelerated

Parents / Guardians and Student: Please sign and date the lower portion of this section indication that you have read and received a copy of the course goals and expectations for this designated class and the specified student as shown.

Student Name (Print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent / Guardian Name (Print)

Parent / Guardian Signature

Date

When necessary, who should be contacted regarding student performance?

Parent / Guardian Name (s)

Phone

e-mail