**6th Grade Science Syllabus**

**Harding Middle School 2019-2020**

**Contacts:**

Feel free at any point in time to contact us at our email below on questions, comments, or concerns you may have! The best way to contact us during day in through e-mail. We can also be reached at (515) 242-8445.

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**Course/Unit Overview:**

There are three main units during the year. Matter (chemistry), Earth Systems and Earth Activity, Molecules to Organisms. Below is a more detailed description of what will be taught in each unit. Each unit broken up into topics. Students earn scores (0-4) based on their understanding for individual topics. At the end of the unit, all the topic scores come together to give an accurate unit score.



**Unit: Properties and Variations of Matter**

**Topic: Properties of Matter**

**Topic: Temperature and Particle Movement**

**Topic: Atomic Composition and Chemical Reactions**

**Topic: Thermal Energy**

**Unit: Earth Systems and Earth Activity**

**Topic: Earth’s Flow of Materials and Plate Motions**

**Topic: Distribution of Natural Resources**

**Topic: Shaping of Earth’s Crust and Living with Natural Hazards**

**Unit: Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes**

**Topic: Cell Theory and Body Organization**

**Topic: Hereditary**

**Safety:**

Science gives students an opportunity to explore and experiments with science concepts. Being a science class, there are safety protocols that students must follow to ensure every student has the ability to learn in a safe environment. The next page is the safety contract your student will be learning and expected to follow during class.

**Science Safety Contract**

**PURPOSE**

Science is a hands-on laboratory class. However, science activities may have potential hazards. We will use some equipment that may be dangerous if not handled properly. Safety in the science classroom is an important part of the scientific process. To ensure a safe classroom, a list of rules has been developed and is called the Science Safety Contract. These rules must be followed at all times. Additional safety instructions will be given for each activity. No science student will be allowed to participate in science activities until this contract has been signed by the student.

**SAFETY RULES**

**1.** Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the science room. Horseplay, practical jokes, and pranks will not be tolerated.

**2.** Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. Ask your teacher questions if you do not understand the instructions.

**3.** Do not touch any equipment, supplies, animals, or other materials in the science room without permission from the teacher.

**4.** Perform only authorized and approved experiments. Do not conduct any experiments when the teacher is out of the room.

**5.** Never eat, drink, chew gum, or taste anything-WITHOUT PERMISSION in the science room.

**6.** Keep hands away from face, eyes, and mouth while using science materials or when working with either chemicals or animals. Wash your hands with soap and water before leaving the science room.

**7.** Wear safety glasses or goggles when instructed. Never remove safety glasses or goggles during an experiment. There will be no exceptions to this rule!

**8.** Keep your work area and the science room neat and clean. Bring only your laboratory instructions, worksheets, and writing instruments to the work area.

**9.** Clean all work areas and equipment at the end of the experiment. Return all equipment clean and in working order to the proper storage area.

**10.** Follow your teacher’s instructions to dispose of any waste materials generated in an experiment.

**11.** Report any accident (fire, spill, breakage, etc.), injury (cut, burn, etc.), or hazardous condition (broken equipment, etc.) to the teacher immediately.

**12.** Consider all chemicals used in the science room to be dangerous. Do not touch or smell any chemicals unless specifically instructed to do so.

**13.** Always carry a microscope with both hands. Hold the arm with one hand; place the other hand under the base.

**14.** Treat all preserved specimens and dissecting supplies with care and respect.

**a.**       Do not remove preserved specimens from the science room.

**b.**      Use scalpels, scissors, and other sharp instruments only as instructed.

**c.**       Never cut any material towards you - always cut away from your body.

**d.**      Report any cut or scratch from sharp instruments to the teacher immediately.

**15.** Never open storage cabinets without permission from the teacher.

**16.** Do not remove chemicals, equipment, or supplies from the science room without permission from the teacher.

**17.** Handle all glassware with care. Never pick up hot or broken glassware with your bare hands.

**18.** Use extreme caution when using a hot plate.

**19.** Dress properly—long hair must be tied back, no dangling jewelry, and no loose or baggy clothing.

**20.** Learn where the safety equipment is located and how to use it. Know where the exits are located and what to do in case of an emergency or fire drill.

**AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, (student’s name) have read and understand each of the above safety rules set forth in this contract. I agree to follow them to ensure not only my own safety but also the safety of others in the science classroom or laboratory. I also agree to follow the general rules of appropriate behavior for a classroom at all times to avoid accidents and to provide a safe learning environment for everyone. I understand that if I do not follow all the rules and safety precautions, I will not be allowed to participate in science activities.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_