

# 4th Grade Science

## Water and Our World, Geology, and Ecosystems

2022/2023 School Year  
9 AM

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### I. Rationale:

In 4th grade Science we will explore the world of geology, ecosystems, and Water and Our World. We will look at rocks and minerals, we will discover how our ecosystems work and how to take care of them. Lastly, we will look at how water works and why it's so important to our world. We will do some fun low-key experiments, watch science videos, and do on-going science journaling.

### II. Course Aims and Outcomes:

#### A. Aims

Explore the wonders of the vast world that surrounds us, from the amazing creations found in your own backyard to the most extreme biomes on Earth, in the brand-new *Ecosystems* science unit. Every little part of the earth, from the drops of water in the ocean to lumbering elephants to each unique person, is an important part of our world! Explore explosive volcanoes, fascinating rocks, amazing landforms, and more in Geology. Dive into the fascinating world of waterfalls, glaciers, oceans, and more! Learn all about water and how it shapes our earth and our lives in this Water and Our World science unit. Cells, fungi, mold, bacteria, protists, classification—children explore all of these things and much more in this engaging science unit.

#### Specific Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

A well stated outcome has two components:

I am wanting the students to be able to absorb the information in each unit and show comprehension through the activities.

2. Form – students must be able to read at a certain level or have parental help. They must be able to analyze the information and comprehend at some level to perform the assignments.

### **III. Format and Procedures:**

Each class I will have an introduction to the content, as we begin I will need the students to be punctual, the needed supplies in hand, in a quiet non distracting area, and their attention focused on our class. Many times I have had students come to class without the proper materials and it slows the class down, disrupts it, or the student misses out on the activity because they were not prepared. Also for homework assignments; if the child does not do the assignments then it is very hard for me to grade their comprehension on the topic. Most parents at this age do not take grades but for the sake of the class this is how I am able to gauge whether the student is retaining the info or not.

Attendance: if the child will not be attending a certain class please let me know ahead of time and I will make sure to keep the parent updated on what happened in the class that day. Attendance is important but schedules can be changed.

Participation: is very important. Unless there is a serious problem the camera needs to be on, and the student needs to be active in listening. There will be time for questions during the lesson but since we have such a short time the students need to make sure that they do not talk over each other. I also do end of class announcements so the student will need to stay until the end of class.

Since these are only 4th graders I will not be doing many tests or quizzes, but if I have any assignments that are like this it will not be difficult at all and not complicated.

### **IV. My Assumptions**

At this age I really just want to make learning science a lot more fun and gentle. There are times when I will teach the more difficult vocabulary, but my goal is to get students from being scared or shy in making mistakes when it comes to writing, speaking, and reading. Science labs can be fun but a lot of the time they are challenging, so we will be doing simple science projects that are stress free for the students, the parents, and the teacher.

### **V. Course Requirements:**

1. Prerequisites: Your student needs to be able to read on a 3rd grade level, be able to write at least a paragraph, and be able to sit for at least the 40 min and dialogue with the teacher.
2. Class attendance and participation policy: Please attend class and if you miss just send me a quick message letting me know.
3. Course readings:

(a) Required text(s): I will be using The Good and The Beautiful science units. There will need to be a small space for the student to have a science wall. You may purchase the unit if you want, but it's not a must.

## VI. Expectations for Parents

- Set aside a calm, quiet, distraction-free space for your child(ren) to work every day.
- Ensure virtual learning equipment is available and charged.
- Establish routines and expectations and a basic schedule for completing classwork.
- Help students 'own' their learning.
- Check Edmodo for communications from teachers and help students print off resources that are provided.
- Stay abreast of teacher feedback in the form of grades or other messages.
- Proctor tests, quizzes, or other assessments as scheduled by the teacher. Parents ensure academic integrity because they are on the "live" side of the screen.
- Communicate with teachers regularly via email or Edmodo regarding any questions or issues that arise.
- If your child is having trouble completing work, please email the teacher to schedule a time for an online meeting.

## VII. Grading Procedures

Grades will be weighted on the following scale:

50% — Completed work

30 % — Participation

20 % — Projects/Quizzes/Tests

I have a rubric that I go by that helps with my grading. This allows the students to understand how their efforts are measured.

I am very lenient about late papers at this grade level, but after a few reminders the papers will start getting late marks. I generally take -5 points off for late papers.

## VIII. Academic Integrity

This is very simple. We are all Christians and honesty and integrity is a very important virtue to teach our children. I want the papers to be what YOUR child has done and accomplished. Some parents like to hide their child's struggles or weaknesses in a subject. I cannot help a student if I don't know what their weaknesses are. I also want the students to give me their best work and effort and that looks different for everyone. Some are advanced in a certain area while they struggle in another area. And that is JUST FINE! I am looking at effort not perfection!

## **IX. Tentative Course Schedule**

We will be starting off with Ecosystems, then on to Water and Our World, and ending with Geology.

## **X. Resource Readings**

As of right now all of the books that I suggest for reading will be for either extra credit or just fun suggestions.