

# 5th Grade Science

2022/2023 School Year

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## I. Rationale:

This year we will be studying biology: Kingdoms and Classification, Botany, and Arthropods. We will explore animals and plants using The Good and The Beautiful science curriculum. We will study their classifications, cells, life cycles, reproduction, and watch science videos while learning to make science journals. This course will be semi-hands on with the projects and experiments being very low key and cost efficient. I will give a list of what supplies that will be needed a month in advance.

## II. Course Aims and Outcomes:

### A. Aims

My goal in this class is to teach science through an Orthodox Biblical worldview. The student must be able to read on level, complete assignments, participate in class, and be able to follow instructions during the hands-on experiments. There will be some projects and a few tests that the students will need to complete.

### Specific Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

Be able to know the cells, life cycles, habitats, and parts of all three units.

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

## 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 science fun and engaging. This can be a fun class as long as there is good participation and good attitudes and hard work.

#### V. Course Requirements:

1. Prerequisites:

Your student needs to be able to read on a 4th 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:

Required text:

A science journal, a 3-ring binder with dividers to separate the units, access to a printer, a small space to create a science wall. There are microscope activities, so if you want to do that, please purchase a microscope. This will be used in 2 of the units as well. The microscope is not mandatory. There will be a few hands-on project-based assignments to enhance learning. If you want to purchase the TG&TB science units, you are welcome to do that.

#### 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 work through Kingdoms and Classification first, then Botany, and last Arthropods.

## **X. Resource Readings**

I will give out additional reading resources for the students for extra credit or for their own personal use.