



6th Grade Syllabus

Math and Science

Mr. Curtis

“Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think” - Albert Einstein

Welcome to High Tech Middle Mesa! Sixth Grade is an important transitional year as students adapt to the exciting world of project based learning. In addition to important content and skill development, students will develop professional skills to support their continued success at High Tech and beyond.

Curtis Taylor
6th Grade Math/Science
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619-510-4600
Office Hours- Tuesday 3:15-4:15
Room 405

I value parent communication and look forward to working with families to help each child work toward their full potential. Please feel free to contact me and allow 24 hours for a response.

Students are encouraged to attend office hours each week to receive additional assistance with concepts and assignments. Individual or small group instruction is available.

Math/Science Course Overview

Math: This year’s math curriculum will be closely aligned to the Common Core Standards. We will begin with a statistical analysis project and progress to tackling an amazing unit on Number Sense. Next, we will be analyzing and working with rational numbers and developing a deeper understanding of ratios and rates. Then, we will focus on an exciting unit on expressions and equations. Students will close the year of having knowledge of how to use formulas to make graphs and geometry concepts. Above all the numbers and symbols, our main goal in math is to develop students’ number sense, and to develop students’ critical thinking and problem-solving skills. These standards closely align with HTH philosophies, projects, and problem-based instruction. In addition, the Common Core Standards place greater emphasis on rigor and depth than the previous CA state standards. Please, let me know if you have any questions or if you would like to review the scope and sequence HTH follows.

Next Generation Science: This year we will be implementing the Next Generation Science Standards. Students will be introduced to inquiry-based learning, engineering practices, and creating a deeper understanding of crosscutting concepts that appear within all disciplines. We will be taking a more indepth look at what various scientists think and do. Students will be keeping up with their own personal science journal where the essences of thinking (prior knowledge, data collection, observations, metacognition) will be taking place. This year we will be focusing on weather and climate, structure and function of organisms, ecosystems, earth's systems, heredity and the engineering design process.

Mr. Curtis' Digital Portfolio

Teachers maintain digital portfolios to communicate class assignments, homework, events, and important announcements. Project information, calendars, and handouts will be posted on DPs and are available for download. Students and parents are encouraged to check DPs regularly and follow class calendars.

Math/Science DP
cutaylor.weebly.com

Student Email and Computer Use

Students will be given their own @hightechhigh.org email address and network login. Topics communicated through email should be related to school work only. Students may have access to school computers. Computers may not leave our classrooms. Students must be sitting at a table to use the computer. Students must use their own login to access the network. Internet access may only be used for schoolwork. Students who misuse these privileges will lose access to their school account.

PowerSchool

HTMM uses PowerSchool to communicate with families. The contact information provided in the PowerSchool system will allow us to reach families by phone, mail, and email. Please make sure your information is up to date so that your family does not miss out on important information. PowerSchool also has an online gradebook function that we use to track student work completion and skill levels. Parents and students have logins and are encouraged to check powerschool regularly.

Absences and Late Work

Our projects are based on critique and culminate in a regular and public exhibition. Students who are unprepared for deadlines affect the progress of the entire class. If more time is needed for projects, please schedule an appointment during office hours and be prepared to be clear and honest why you need more time. We will make a plan to get your work done as close to the due date as possible. Our academic program differs from other school programs. Students are often working on projects and collaborating in groups. Missed group work often times cannot be made up at a later time. The teachers and staff at HTMM support a challenging and personalized curriculum. To receive academic credit for absences of five (5) days or more, students are required to have an independent study contract. To coordinate this contract parents must email Sandy Nuno (snuno@hightechhigh.org) and their student's teachers at least two (2) weeks prior to the absence. Due to the nature of project-based learning, contract work may not be the exact assignments a student would receive while attending class. This means that a contract will include current project and homework assignments with the addition of worksheets, essays, and reading. While completing work for a contract, students should be prepared to complete a significant amount of work while absent. All contract work is due the day the student returns to school.

Grading Policy

The Clark/Curtis team utilizes dialogical grading. This in-depth, communicative, reflective practice of grading is paramount to developing healthy academic mindsets in students without "boxing them in" with a letter grade. This

practice relies heavily on a three-pronged communication system: student-teacher, student-family, family-teacher. Every month students will complete reflections. These reflections will be submitted on Fridays. Students will receive the reflections back the following Friday via a living Google document with teacher comments written on them. Students will then take them home to their families where their parents/guardians will respond to the reflection and comments in writing, and those signed reflections will finally be submitted to the teachers. It is our hope that these reflections will be a piece of the ongoing dialogue between a student and his/her families about school. These reflections will inform our pass/no pass grading system. Though we will be using a pass/fail system, a list of assignments and their rate of completion can be tracked for each student on Powerschool. In addition, we believe that assessment and data collection is essential to tracking growth and helping teachers adjust their practice to be most impactful, so our students take assessments weekly that can be found in Powerschool to help parents and teachers track growth in class. This along with the dialogical model, we believe, empowers our students to grow in amazing ways!

Cooperative Work

Students will learn how to work with their peers on a daily basis. They will be asked to solve open-ended problems with their table groups, work on group projects, and even work as a whole class on certain projects. We will explore and discuss different strategies so that all students understand what makes effective cooperative work. Rest assured that individual feedback will be given even when cooperative work is issued.

Homework

Students can expect homework and assignments regularly. The purpose of homework is to help students develop skills; as well as reinforce what was taught in class. Work must be turned in complete, on time, and with proper formatting. Homework help is available during lunch, after school, or by appointment.

Taylor SYLLABUS SIGNATURES

Dear Parents, Please read over the syllabus and discuss its contents with your child. Sign below to affirm “I have read the above syllabus and understand its contents.”

Student Name:

Parent Name:

Student Signature:

Parent Signature:

Please take a moment to **update and review your contact information in PowerSchool.** Information in the system will be used for all contact. Our Office Manager, Sandy Nuno, can help you with login information if need be. Sandy may be reached at 619-510-4600 or snuno@hightechhigh.org.

Parents, please fill out the following information about your student. Thank you!

My child’s strengths are _____

My child needs help with _____

This year, I would like my child to _____

I would like the teachers to know that _____

We chose to enroll in HTMM because _____

Students, please return this page to Mr. Curtis

