

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Science
Sixth grade
Mrs. Williams
kwilliams@northstonington.k12.ct.us
Room 112

I. *Course Overview:*

This course is a general science course that introduces students to the major interactions and energy flow in ecosystems, the forces and processes that influence Earth systems, and the impacts of human activity on the Earth. Nonfiction texts and interactive web sites will be used along with many forms of digital media to reinforce science content. Authentic activities and inquiry-based labs will encourage students to be active participants in their learning. Student choice is emphasized for projects and assignments.

II. *Overall Course Objectives:*

The following course objectives from the Next Generation Science Standards will be addressed in this course:

- **MS-LS2 Ecosystems:** Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics: How do organisms interact with the living and nonliving things in the ecosystem to obtain energy? What happens to ecosystems when the environment changes?
- **MS-ESS2 Earth's Systems:** Why do the continents move, and what causes earthquakes and volcanoes? How does the movement of water shape Earth's surface and affect its systems? What regulates weather and climate? What factors influence weather patterns?
- **MS-ESS3 Earth and Human Activity:** How do humans impact Earth systems and what are the consequences over time?

III. *Materials Required:*

- Accordion pocket folder
- Pencils and erasers (no pens in science class)
- Headphones/ear buds (optional)
- Assignment book
- Composition notebook

IV. *Class/Behavior Expectations:*

All students will be expected to be prepared for class with the required materials and ready to learn. High-quality work is expected along with respectful behavior. The discipline policy will follow the three "Rs" which stand for remind, redirect, and reinforce. Students will be reminded of appropriate behavior, redirected for inappropriate behavior, and the student-generated classroom rules will be reinforced. Students will be using many forms of digital media and they are expected to adhere to all school policies when using these educational programs. Sending or displaying any inappropriate language or offensive references will have consequences from the administration. Students will also be attending outdoor field trips during science class, which may be located at the Recreation field, Assekonk Brook, or Assekonk Pond. Students will be expected to follow safety rules or they will not be allowed to attend these trips.

V. *Attendance Policy:*

ATTENDANCE (Grades 6 – 8)

A maximum of twenty (20) absences (excused or unexcused) will be permitted without academic penalty. Students who exceed the maximum twenty (20) days may be considered for non-promotion. In an effort to inform parents/guardians of the importance of regular school attendance the school will:

1. Inform the parent/guardian in writing after ten (10) absences are recorded.
2. A meeting will be scheduled with the parent/guardian after fifteen (15) absences are recorded.
3. A letter will be sent to the parents/guardians after twenty (20) absences have been recorded indicating that the child may be considered for non-promotion.

VI. *Grading Policy:*

Grades will be determined by dividing the total number of points accumulated from scores and assessments by the total possible points. Grades will be comprised of tests, quizzes, lab reports, class activities, homework, and projects. Homework assignments will be posted on PowerSchool and Remind.

VII. *Academic Integrity Statement:*

The faculty and administration of Wheeler Middle/High School demand high standards of academic performance and academic honesty. Anything less would jeopardize quality education and allow our students to deny themselves needed skills and knowledge. For this reason students who cheat on their assigned work, reports, research papers, quizzes, tests or examination risk prompt and punitive action by both their teacher and the school. Examples of violations may include, but are not limited to:

- Giving or receiving aid on tests and graded assignments
- Unauthorized talking during tests
- Copying regular homework/exercises
- Unapproved discussion of examinations/assignments contents
- Cheating on peer reviews of student work
- Misuse of technology

Documentation of all sources is important to avoid plagiarism, which is the stealing of another's ideas, words, writing, or academic work, and implying that it is original. Both quoting and paraphrasing information from an outside source, including any technology without crediting that source is a form of plagiarism. Students who are found cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to the following guidelines:

First offense:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.
- Administration notified (by teachers completing a discipline form).

Subsequent offenses:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.
- Disciplinary action by administration which may include office detention or suspension

IX. *Teacher Availability for Extra Help:*

SRBI period is the time during the school day students when students can receive extra help. In addition, Mrs. Williams is available each day of the week until 2:45 pm except for Wednesdays. Please send a note with 24-hour notice if you would like your child to stay after school. Please use the following e-mail address kwilliams@northstonington.k12.ct.us if you have any questions or concerns. The school phone number is 535-0377 and the voice mail number is #112.

X. *Wheeler High School Academic Expectations and Social/Civic Expectations:*

The following expectations have been adopted by Wheeler Middle/High School. Teachers will be targeting 21st century skills using school-wide rubrics. Although analysis will be the only academic expectation assessed and reported out, I will still be covering and assessing growth and progress in other areas such as communication, literacy, and collaboration.

<i>Academic:</i>	<i>Social/Civic:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Communication✓ Literacy✓ <u>Analysis</u>✓ Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Honesty✓ Responsibility✓ Respect✓ Safety

This year in addition to having students write assignments in a student planner, I will be using a program known as **‘Remind’** to remind students of assignments that are due. This is a free program that employs the use of your child’s cell phone, and you can be a part of this too. The beauty of this program is that no teacher ever has any child’s cell phone number and no student ever has a teacher’s number. All communication is run through the website and is only in one direction-from teacher to student and/or parent. Please take a minute to look up the site at www.remind.com , scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on “Learn More” to watch the short video that will clearly explain the ins and outs of the program. Please sign the permission slip to indicate your consent, send it back in with your child. I have attached the instructions in this packet so you and your child can sign up.

Please sign below showing that you are aware of the academic and social/civic expectations, and you give permission for your child to attend outdoor field trips which may leave school grounds. We will be using many forms of digital media this year that will be strictly monitored. Please return this page to Mrs. Williams by **Wednesday, August 29, 2018.**

Student's printed name

Parent/Guardian signature

Does your child have any allergies? If so, please explain on the lines below:



Does your child have access to the Internet at home to complete homework? _____

Would you like to be notified of homework assignments by e-mail or text? _____

Do you give your permission to have your child sign up for Remind? _____

Contact information:

E-mail address _____

Home phone number _____

Cell phone number _____

Are you available during the day to chaperone our outdoor field trips?

If so, please print your name and the days and times you are available on the line below:



Science is fun! I hope to plan activities this year that will encourage students to love science the way I do. I want our science classroom a meaningful and exciting place to learn!

Thank you so much for your support,

Kristi Williams