



Welcome to Ms. Benkendorff's  
6th Grade Science Class  
[eseman@sandinet](mailto:eseman@sandinet)



**Course Description:** Providing a safe learning environment is one of my primary goals. This allows students to feel respected, engaged, and excited to learn science.

**Course Standards:**

<p><b>Amplify Science:</b> This is an Interactive online program. In each Amplify unit students take on the role of Scientists and investigate a real world 21s century problem. <a href="https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/sc/ngssstandards.asp">https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/sc/ngssstandards.asp</a></p>	<p><b>Weather Patterns</b> Students investigate how water vapor, temperature, energy transfer, and wind influence local weather patterns and how these factors can lead to severe rainstorms.</p>	<p><b>Earth's Changing Climate</b> Students adopt the role of climatologists who help the fictional World Climate Institute research causes of ice loss and climate change with the goal of educating the public about their findings.</p>	<p><b>Thermal Energy</b> To understand heating and cooling, students will go beyond intuition to discover that observed temperature changes can be explained by the movement of molecules, which facilitates the transfer of kinetic energy from one place to another.</p>
<p><b>Microbiome</b> Students take on the role of student researchers as they work out and explain how a fecal transplant cured a patient suffering from a potentially deadly <i>C. difficile</i> infection. They make arguments that justify continued research of this new treatment.</p>	<p><b>Metabolism</b> Students learn how body systems work together to provide the trillions of cells in the human body with the molecules they need.</p>	<p><b>Traits &amp; Reproduction</b> Students learn how organisms inherit genes from parents, but different combinations of genes can lead to striking variation even among closely related organisms. Understanding the role of genes and the process of inheritance has allowed researchers to explain variation in life on Earth, breed plants and animals with new traits, and develop cures for devastating diseases.</p>	<p><b>Sexual Health Education</b> <a href="#"><u>Rights Respect Responsibility</u></a> (3Rs) is San Diego Unified School District's Board-approved comprehensive sexual health curriculum that complies with <a href="#"><u>CA Healthy Youth Act</u></a> requirements and National Sexuality Education Standards. For more information &amp; to preview curriculum, please visit: <a href="https://www.sandiegounified.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=27732478&amp;pageId=28355591">https://www.sandiegounified.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=27732478&amp;pageId=28355591</a></p>

**Standards Based Grading**

- Student work is graded directly whether it demonstrates a mastery of a clear list of objectives.
- Students can have multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery of an objective.

**NGSS**

Our classroom learning follows the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). NGSS follows a three dimensional approach to science to include:: cross-cutting concepts, science & engineering practices, and disciplinary core ideas. Students will learn to think like scientists and engineers with an emphasis on inquiry based learning. For more information on NGSS please visit: [www.nextgenscience.org](http://www.nextgenscience.org)

**Google Classroom (GC)**

Google Classroom is the "digital" resource for each Amplify unit we cover in science. GC will be used each day. Sign in at [classroom.google.com](https://classroom.google.com)

**If You Are Absent:**

- Be responsible
- Ask for help
- Email teacher
- Attend tutoring (at lunch or afterschool each Thursday)

### How Will Students Learn

- Evaluating Evidence
- Explaining phenomena
- Analyzing and interpreting data
- Group Work / Active Readings
- Constructing and explaining models



### Behavioral Expectations

- Be Safe
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Work Together

### Homework/Late Policy

- Every effort should be made to hand in assignments on time
- Make-up work from absences is due the same number of days upon return that you were gone. (Absent 1 day, due 1 day after you get back. Gone for 3 days, due 3 days after you get back.)
- LATE assignments accepted. Must be turned in within the semester.