

## Course Overview

# Welcome to IRWL Science 6

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**Course Information:** IRWL Science 6 is a component of the Intensive Reading and Written Language Program. It provides students who have diagnosed reading disabilities (dyslexia) with specialized instruction in science. The IRWL Science 6 aligns with the 6th Massachusetts Science Standards and will investigate key topics such as; Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth and Space Science.

### Units of Study/Topics:

- Life Science**
  - Cells and the Anatomy of a Cell
  - Fossil Record
- Earth and Space Science**
  - Earth, Moon, and Sun System
  - Plate Tectonics
- Physical Science**
  - Thermal Energy in Chemical Reactions
  - Density and other physical properties
  - Mixtures

**Resources:** Our primary instructional resource for teaching science in grades six through eight is **STEMscopes**, an online science curriculum from Accelerate Learning.

**STEMscopes** is built on an instructional philosophy that centers on students learning science through hands-on exploration and inquiry. Each lesson includes a series of investigations and activities to bring science to life for our students so that they can “learn by doing” and fully engage in the scientific process.

Each student will receive a login credential to access the program, which features some always-available resources that can be browsed at home, including a Video Glossary and a reference resource called *STEMscopedia*.

**Homework:** Homework assignments will vary in expectations and intervals. Any assignment should only take 10-15 minutes to complete and is scored on a points system (2-100 points). If a student doesn't complete an assignment (absent, confused, forgot.etc.) they are able to hand it in the following day. Students may also complete a weekly current event as part of their continued development of their reading and writing skills.

**Tests/Quizzes:** Rather than a traditional test/quiz that students need to “study” and “memorize” information, students are assessed by means of application of concepts during class and CER’s (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) conclusive summaries. CER’s are graded on a rubric system.

In the IRWL program, we primarily focus on the development of reading and written language and as students experience science in an inquiry-based environment, it is my hope that students will also develop a stronger understanding of the world and life that surrounds us and have a little fun too!

Yours truly,

Mrs. Christine Noviello Sullivan, M.Ed

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