

G/T SCIENCE I – GRADE 6 CLASS DESCRIPTION

The Maryland State Department of Education's Standards Committee defines science as a "a body of knowledge developed through the process of investigating that is combined with thoughtful reflections guided by critical thinking skills. This body of knowledge is dynamic and has a dramatic impact on every aspect of social life." The Howard County Public School System science program is grounded in this vision of science. Throughout the middle school science program, the concepts of science are taught in conjunction with science skills and process in order to develop in students a deeper and richer understanding of scientific facts and principles.

Grade 6 Science I G/T

The sixth grade is an important time of transition for students as they adjust to the move from elementary to middle school. In middle school science, students continue to develop their expertise with the skills and processes of science by developing and implementing well-designed investigations. They continue to study topics from the earth, life, and physical sciences; however, instruction will focus on earth and space science in sixth grade.

The Essential Curriculum for Grade Six Science includes seven units. They are as follows:

- What is Science?
- Properties of Matter
- Processes that Shape a Planet
- Rocks and Minerals
- Our Solar System
- Weather and Climate
- Grade 6 G/T Science Research

Emphasis is placed on the G/T science research unit and the differentiated G/T objectives. The result is an increase in the depth and complexity of the topics being studied, commensurate with the learning needs of highly able or high achieving science students.