

7th Grade Science

Information for Parents and Students

What is the 5E Instructional Model?

The 5E Instructional Model is a hands-on learning curriculum in which students construct knowledge and meaning from experiences. By understanding and reflecting on these activities, students are able to bridge new knowledge with previous ideas. Students are actively engaged and become problem-solvers. Students are challenged to think critically on their own. The teacher provides guidance through the process, but students are responsible for their own learning.

Engage:

- Activity to gain interest in the topic.
- Activity to make connections with past topics.

Explore:

- Use of hands-on activities to come up with ideas, educated guesses or theories.
 - This may be limited due to COVID protocols.

Explain:

- Direct instruction phase. Vocabulary is defined and concepts are discussed.

Elaborate (Extend):

- More advanced study of the topic.
- Apply topics to a new situation.

Evaluate:

- Evaluate learning and prove what you know in the form of writing, conversation or demonstration.
- May include a quiz / test / performance task / CER.

Curriculum:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Hydrosphere | 4. Minerals, Rocks, and Soil | 7. Earth and Human Activity |
| 2. Weather and Climate | 5. Plate Tectonics | |
| 3. Earth's Place in the Universe | 6. Earth's History | |

Grading: I do not give grades, YOU earn them.

Grades are weighted as stated below. Extra credit assignments will not be provided. Students and parents should regularly check grades using Aspen.

Big Assessments (tests / Performance Tasks / CER's / Collins Writing)	45%
Classwork	35%
Little Assessments (quizzes, ticket in / out the door)	20%

Big / Little Assessments:

- Students may not retake an assessment for a higher grade.
- Students may not make corrections to an assessment for a higher grade.

Performance Tasks:

- Any learning activity or assessment that asks students to perform to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and proficiency.
- Performance tasks yield a tangible product and/or performance that serve as evidence of learning.

CER's:

- Claim, Evidence, Reasoning is a format for writing about science.

Collin's Writing: Collins writing is a method that produces written responses to open ended questions. Requiring students to regularly think on paper promotes learning. Teachers use frequent, usually short, writing assignments to increase students' involvement in lessons, check on their understanding of concepts, and promote their thinking about content. Although there are five types of Collins writing, we will focus on types 1, 2 and 3 in science class. Type one writing will be graded for completion only. Type two and three writing will be graded based on content. The five types of writing assignments develop students' essential writing and thinking skills in the context of their everyday classroom learning.

COLLINS WRITING PROGRAM

Five Types of Writing

Type 1 : Capture Ideas

Type One writing gets ideas on paper—brainstorming. Type One is timed and requires a minimum number of items or lines. Questions and/or guesses are permitted. Evaluated with a check (✓) or minus (-). *One draft.*

Type 2 : Respond Correctly

Type Two writing shows that the writer knows something about a topic or has thought about the topic. It is a correct answer to a specific question, graded as a quiz. *One draft.*

Type 3 : Edit for FCAs

Type Three writing has substantive content and meets up to three specific standards called focus correction areas. It is *read out loud* and reviewed to see if the draft meets the following criteria: completes the assignment, is easy to read, and meets standards set by the focus correction areas. Revision and editing are done on the original. *One draft.*

Type 4 : Peer Edit for FCAs

Type Four writing is Type Three writing that is *read out loud* and critiqued by another. *Two drafts.*


Type 5 : Publish

Type Five writing is error free and of publishable quality. *Multiple drafts.*

For All Types

For all types, skip lines. For Types One and Two, label the type on top left-hand side of paper. For Types Three and Four, list focus correction areas on top left-hand side. Type Three and Four papers should be saved and used to practice editing skills.

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Classwork: The work we do in class (at home and at school) is essential to learning.

USA Test Prep:

A benchmark test will be given approximately halfway through the year to assess 7th grade curriculum. Results of this benchmark test will be used to determine what topics need remediation. Students not proficient with the 7th grade curriculum will be assigned a “dot challenge.” Students will complete assignments in USA Test Prep to change any pink dot to a yellow or green dot for their assigned topics. Remediation will occur first with earth science, then nature of science. Each earth science topic is worth ten points for a yellow or green dot.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Come to class prepared including a charged Chromebook, interactive notebook, and pen / pencil. You will not be permitted to leave the room to get these items.
2. Use the restroom when Mrs. Thumma is not teaching or giving directions.
3. Be in your assigned seat and quiet when the bell rings.
4. Use your planner
5. Complete classwork and homework on time and in a neat format.
6. Be respectful, cooperative, and work collaboratively with your classmates and Mrs. Thumma.
7. Make up missed work as soon as possible. Making up missed work is your responsibility.
8. Water bottles are permitted but you may not eat in science class.
9. I should not see your cell phone.
10. Earbuds are to be used when permission is given.

COVID Reminders:

1. Wear your mask at all times. One ten minute mask break will be provided each period.
2. Do not share materials (pencils / pen / chromebook / INB / etc)
3. Do not move the desks or the chairs.
4. If you need a loaner chromebook, please ask. When you return the chromebook, place it on the lab counter near the sink so it can be cleaned. Chromebooks must sit 10 minutes after being cleaned.
5. Items such as rulers, scissors, glue sticks, etc will be sanitized before you use them. When you are finished with an item, place it in the bin on the lab counter near the sink so it can be cleaned.

Discipline: The classroom environment must be free from distractions so that all students can learn. If after receiving a warning for minor disruptive or uncooperative behavior (per day) the student continues to disrupt or be uncooperative he / she will serve a last to lunch. Parents will be notified if three or more last to lunch punishments have been assigned and additional misbehavior will result in an office referral. Major disruptive or uncooperative behavior will result in a referral to the office and parents / guardians will be notified by phone or email

Contacting Mrs. Thumma: When you have a question, concern, or comment about science class please contact Mrs. Thumma by phone or email.

School Phone: 776-2000

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