

# Verona Public School District Curriculum Overview

## 6th Grade Science

**Curriculum Committee Members:**

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**Curriculum Developed:**

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**Verona Public Schools Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Verona Public Schools, the center of an engaged and supportive community, is to empower students to achieve their potential as active learners and productive citizens through rigorous curricula and meaningful, enriching experiences.

**Course Description:**

The 6th grade science curriculum provides “opportunities for students to engage directly with natural phenomena, tools of science, real-world problems and technical and design challenges. The course provides an instructional framework to help all students develop age-appropriate scientific habits of mind while building on students’ prior knowledge and experiences and allowing them to apply knowledge and problem solving strategies in new contexts,” (STC, 2012).

The 6th grade science program makes use of three Science and Technology Centers kits: **Energy, Forces, and Motion; Structure and Function; and Earth’s Dynamic Systems**. The Energy, Forces, and Motion unit teaches science and engineering practices, teachable core ideas, and crosscutting concepts that are integrated into every lesson. The unit relates Newtonian physics to objects that roll, fall, and collide. Join us as we plan investigations and design solutions to explore energy, forces, and motion. In Structure and Function students will explore cells, cell organelles, photosynthesis and cellular respiration, levels of biological organization, finally culminating by investigating sensory systems and nervous system function. In Earth’s Dynamic Systems students seek answers to the question, “How do the dynamic systems of Earth change its surface?” Students will investigate earthquakes, plate tectonics, the cycling of matter on the planet’s surface, volcanoes, and the age of the earth. The unit culminate in building an argument based upon evidence that the Earth is a changing, dynamic system of great age.

**Prerequisite(s):**

5th grade

## Standard 8: Technology Standards

<p><b>8.1: Educational Technology:</b> <i>All students will use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaborate and to create and communicate knowledge.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Technology Operations and Concepts</li> <li>B. Creativity and Innovation</li> <li>C. Communication and Collaboration</li> <li>D. Digital Citizenship</li> <li>E. Research and Information Fluency</li> <li><b>X</b> F. Critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making</li> </ul>	<p><b>8.2: Technology Education, Engineering, Design, and Computational Thinking - Programming:</b> <i>All students will develop an understanding of the nature and impact of technology, engineering, technological design, computational thinking and the designed world as they relate to the individual, global society, and the environment.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. The Nature of Technology: Creativity and Innovation</li> <li>B. Technology and Society</li> <li>C. Design</li> <li><b>X</b> D. Abilities for a Technological World</li> <li>E. Computational Thinking: Programming</li> </ul>
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## SEL Competencies and Career Ready Practices

<p><b>Social and Emotional Learning Core Competencies:</b> <i>These competencies are identified as five interrelated sets of cognitive, affective, and behavioral capabilities</i></p>	<p><b>Career Ready Practices:</b> <i>These practices outline the skills that all individuals need to have to truly be adaptable, reflective, and proactive in life and careers. These are researched practices that are essential to career readiness.</i></p>
<p><b>Self-awareness:</b> The ability to accurately recognize one's emotions and thoughts and their influence on behavior. This includes accurately assessing one's strengths and limitations and possessing a well-grounded sense of confidence and optimism.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>X</b> CRP2. Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.</li> <li>CRP9. Model integrity, ethical leadership, and effective management.</li> <li>CRP10. Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Self-management:</b> The ability to regulate one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors effectively in different situations. This includes managing stress, controlling impulses, motivating oneself, and setting and working toward achieving personal and academic goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CRP3. Attend to personal health and financial well-being.</li> <li><b>X</b> CRP6. Demonstrate creativity and innovation.</li> <li><b>X</b> CRP8. Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.</li> <li>CRP11. Use technology to enhance productivity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social awareness:</b> The ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others from diverse backgrounds and cultures, to understand social and ethical norms for behavior, and to recognize family, school, and community resources and supports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CRP1. Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.</li> <li>CRP9. Model integrity, ethical leadership, and effective management.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Relationship skills:</b> The ability to establish and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships with diverse individuals and groups. This includes communicating clearly, listening actively, cooperating, resisting inappropriate social pressure, negotiating conflict constructively, and seeking and offering help when needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>X</b> CRP4. Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.</li> <li>CRP9. Model integrity, ethical leadership, and effective management.</li> <li>CRP12. Work productively in teams while using cultural global competence.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Responsible decision making:</b> The ability to make constructive and respectful choices about personal behavior and social interactions based on consideration of ethical standards, safety concerns, social norms, the realistic evaluation of consequences of various actions, and the well-being of self and others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CRP5. Consider the environmental, social, and economic impact of decisions.</li> <li>CRP7. Employ valid and reliable research strategies.</li> <li><b>X</b> CRP8. Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.</li> <li>CRP9. Model integrity, ethical leadership, and effective management.</li> </ul>

## Standard 9: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Life and Careers

<p><b>9.1: Personal Financial Literacy:</b> <i>This standard outlines the important fiscal knowledge, habits, and skills that must be mastered in order for students to make informed decisions about personal finance. Financial literacy is an integral component of a student's college and career readiness, enabling students to achieve fulfilling, financially-secure, and successful careers.</i></p>	<p><b>9.2: Career Awareness, Exploration &amp; Preparation:</b> <i>This standard outlines the importance of being knowledgeable about one's interests and talents, and being well informed about postsecondary and career options, career planning, and career requirements.</i></p>	<p><b>9.3: Career and Technical Education:</b> <i>This standard outlines what students should know and be able to do upon completion of a CTE Program of Study.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>X</b> A. Income and Careers</li> <li>B. Money Management</li> <li>C. Credit and Debt Management</li> <li>D. Planning, Saving, and Investing</li> <li>E. Becoming a Critical Consumer</li> <li>F. Civic Financial Responsibility</li> <li>G. Insuring and Protecting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Career Awareness (K-4)</li> <li><b>X</b> B. Career Exploration (5-8)</li> <li>C. Career Preparation (9-12)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Agriculture, Food &amp; Natural Res.</li> <li>B. Architecture &amp; Construction</li> <li>C. Arts, A/V Technology &amp; Comm.</li> <li>D. Business Management &amp; Admin.</li> <li>E. Education &amp; Training</li> <li>F. Finance</li> <li>G. Government &amp; Public Admin.</li> <li>H. Health Science</li> <li>I. Hospital &amp; Tourism</li> <li>J. Human Services</li> <li>K. Information Technology</li> <li>L. Law, Public, Safety, Corrections &amp; Security</li> <li>M. Manufacturing</li> <li>N. Marketing</li> <li><b>X</b> O. Science, Technology, Engineering &amp; Math</li> <li>P. Transportation, Distribution &amp; Log.</li> </ul>

## Course Materials

<p><b>Core Instructional Materials:</b> <i>These are the board adopted and approved materials to support the curriculum, instruction, and assessment of this course.</i></p>	<p><b>Differentiated Resources:</b> <i>These are teacher and department found materials, and also approved support materials that facilitate differentiation of curriculum, instruction, and assessment of this course.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● STC Kits             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Energy, Forces and Motion</li> <li>○ Structure and Function</li> <li>○ Earth's Dynamic Systems</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="http://www.ck12.org">www.ck12.org</a></li> <li>● TWIG videos</li> <li>● BrainPop</li> <li>● Educational videos on YouTube</li> </ul>



Unit Title / Topic: Energy, Forces and Motion

Unit Duration: 70 days

Stage 1: Desired Results

Established NGSS Goals:

- MS-PS2-1. Apply Newton's Third Law to design a solution to a problem involving the motion of two colliding objects.
MS-PS2-2. Plan an investigation to provide evidence that the change in an object's motion depends on the sum of the forces on the object and the mass of the object.
MS-PS2-3. Ask questions about data to determine the factors that affect the strength of electric and magnetic forces.
MS-PS2-5. Conduct an investigation and evaluate the experimental design to provide evidence that fields exist between objects exerting forces on each other even though the objects are not in contact.
MS-PS3-2. Develop a model to describe that when the arrangement of objects interacting at a distance changes, different amounts of potential energy are stored in the system.
MS-ETS1-1. Define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles and potential impacts on people and the natural environment that may limit possible solutions.
MS-ETS1-2. Evaluate competing design solutions using a systematic process to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.
MS-ETS1-3. Analyze data from tests to determine similarities and differences among several design solutions to identify the best characteristics of each that can be combined into a new solution to better meet the criteria for success.
MS-ETS1-4. Develop a model to generate data for iterative testing and modification of a proposed object, tool, or process such that an optimal design can be achieved.

Table with 3 columns: Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts. Each column contains detailed standards and descriptions.

Common Core State Standards Connections:

- ELA/Literacy - RST.6-8.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts...
Mathematics - MP.2 Reason abstractly and quantitatively...
6.NS.C.5 Understand that positive and negative numbers are used together to describe quantities having opposite directions or values...

Transfer Goal:

Students will be able to independently use their learning of energy, forces, and motion to plan and conduct their own procedures, analyze diagrams, and make logical connections to the physical world around us.

Students will understand that:

- Energy can change form and be transferred between objects
Change in motion depends on the sum of the forces on an object and its mass
Collisions can transfer energy between objects and cause changes in motion
The acceleration of an object is inversely related to the object's mass
The force of gravity causes the objects to accelerate
The net force on an object is the sum of all forces on the object and can describe the object's motion
Mass describes the amount of matter in a body and weight is a measure of the force of gravity, but they are directly proportional
Graphs show changes in an object's motion

Essential Questions:

- Why do objects speed up, slow down, or change direction?
How can magnets affect motion?
How can we predict if the motion of an object change or stay the same?
How can gravity affect the motion of objects on Earth?
How does Newton's third law play a role on Earth and in space?
What happens to energy when two objects collide?
How does energy transform from Potential to Kinetic energy?

Students will know:

- Energy, force, mass, speed, acceleration, reference frame, velocity, balanced forces, net force, diagram, gravity, variables, Newtons, weight, magnetism, magnetic poles, magnetic fields, controlled experiment, independent and dependent variables, inertia, Newton's Laws of Motion, GPE, KE PE, work, system, collisions, force pairs, friction, velocity, conservation of energy, energy transfer, energy transformation, momentum, conservation of momentum, criteria, constraints, prototype, optimize, modification, Galileo Galilei, Sir Isaac Newton, Robert Hooke,

Students will be able to:

- Plan and carry out investigations to answer questions about forces, energy changes and motion
Construct and analyze graphs to understand speed and motion
Model the energy changes taking place in a moving system
Take specific measurements during investigations to collect and graph data
Design data tables that will reflect the necessary information needed to prove a hypothesis
Analyze various factors including mass and their effect on energy and motion
Interpret Newton's Laws of Motion and how they apply to the world around us

- Apply concepts about gravitational force and the strength of magnetic forces to different situations
- Differentiate between potential (GPE) and kinetic energy, factors that affect both, and the transformation of one to the other
- Apply the law of conservation of energy to explain energy transfer during collisions
- Make predictions about motion under different situations (mass, speed)

## Stage 2: Acceptable Evidence

### Transfer Task

#### Acceptable Evidence:

##### Formal

- Teacher made Quizzes and Tests
- Laboratory Reports

##### Informal

- Class discussion
- Journaling
- Application of scientific concepts in class conversations, debates and discussions.
- Application of scientific vocabulary
- Meaningful homework

#### TRANSFER TASK:

**Students will complete the following transfer task:** There is a new student that has just moved to town and has been placed in your science class. Since she has missed the first half of the year and all the physical science topics you have been taught, your teacher has asked each of the students in your class to create a "Presentation" featuring the most important ideas and concepts that we've studied. This can be done through using Google Slides or a Paper Booklet. Using the list of requirements, create a "Presentation" so the new student can see the ways in which the laws and theories of physics exist all around us.

Students will complete a written assessment that encapsulates important unit concepts. They interpret diagrams and graphs to answer specific questions. They also create an experiment that must correspond to a given hypothesis. This includes the development of a relevant data table and the identification of the important variables

## Reference Materials

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● STC Kits:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Energy, Forces, and Motion Kit</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Chromebooks</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="http://www.ck12.org">www.ck12.org</a></li> <li>● TWIG videos</li> <li>● BrainPop</li> <li>● Educational videos on YouTube</li> <li>● Kahoot</li> </ul> |
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Unit Title / Topic: Structure and Function

Unit Duration: 45 days

Stage 1: Desired Results

Established NGSS Goals:

- MS-LS1-1. Conduct an investigation to provide evidence that living things are made of cells; either one cell or many different numbers and types of cells.
MS-LS1-2. Develop and use a model to describe the function of a cell as a whole and ways parts of cells contribute to the function.
MS-LS1-3. Use argument supported by evidence for how the body is a system of interacting subsystems composed of groups of cells.
MS-LS1-4. Use argument based on empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support an explanation for how characteristic animal behaviors and specialized plant structures affect the probability of successful reproduction of animals and plants respectively.
MS-LS1-5. Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for how environmental and genetic factors influence the growth of organisms.
MS-LS1-6. Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for the role of photosynthesis in the cycling of matter and flow of energy into and out of organisms.
MS-LS1-7. Develop a model to describe how food is rearranged through chemical reactions forming new molecules that support growth and/or release energy as this matter moves through an organism.
MS-LS1-8. Gather and synthesize information that sensory receptors respond to stimuli by sending messages to the brain for immediate behavior or storage as memories.

Table with 3 columns: Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts. Each column contains detailed lists of standards and their descriptions.

Common Core State Standards Connections: ELA/Literacy - RST.6-8.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts. WHST.6-8.1 Write arguments focused on discipline content. Mathematics - 6.EE.C.9 Use variables to represent two quantities in a real-world problem that change in relationship to one another.

Transfer Goal:

Students will be able to independently use their learning to explain how the structure and function of organisms contribute to their everyday survival

Students will understand that:

- The microscope, which is a necessary tool in the study of cells, needs to be properly used and maintained
Cells are the building blocks of all life and the role they play in the development and survival of an organism
Organelles interact and rely on each other, acting as smaller subsystems within a larger system, the cell
Through the process of photosynthesis many organisms produce their own food through the use of specific structures
Through the process of cellular respiration, organisms break down food molecules to release energy for cellular functions and body processes

Essential Questions:

- How do the structure and function of organisms contribute to their survival?
What do we already know about how living things survive in their environment, and how can we learn more?
What roles can cells play in the development and survival of organisms?
What structure does a cell need in order to survive?
What roles do matter and energy play during photosynthesis?
Where do cells get the resources they need to aid in an organism's survival?

Students will know:

- Archaea, cell membrane, cell theory, compound light microscope, cytoplasm, DNA, eukaryotic, nucleus, organelle, prokaryotic, ribosome, species, unicellular, wet-mount slide, scientific illustration, differentiation, multicellular, cell wall, central vacuole, chlorophyll, chloroplast, endoplasmic reticulum, golgi body, lysosome, mitochondria, cell membrane, autotroph, decomposer, heterotroph, omnivore, photosynthesis, transpiration, glucose, synthesize, epidermis, guard cell, mesophyll, phloem, stomata, transpiration, xylem, aerobic, anaerobic, ATP

Students will be able to:

- Discuss what they know about structure and function using a KWL chart
Use a compound light microscope to observe prepared microscope slides
Observe unicellular and multicellular organisms and the structures within plant and animal cells
Make claims about the functions of the observed structures and their similarities
Draw and describe the structures of Euglena, Paramecium, and Elodea
Observe, read, and discuss a variety of cells and their specific function based on their functions
Identify certain organelles in both plant and animal cells
Recognize the process of photosynthesis, its components, and its presence of chlorophyll in leaves
Design and carry out experiment to gather evidence as to what materials are required for photosynthesis (stomata, epidermis, chlorophyll)
Plan and carry out an investigation to determine the form of energy released during cellular respiration

## Stage 2: Acceptable Evidence

### Transfer Task

#### Acceptable Evidence:

##### Formal

- Teacher made quizzes that emphasize transfer of knowledge
- Performance based assessments
- Laboratory Reports

##### Informal

- Class discussion
- Journaling
- Application of scientific concepts in class conversations, debates and discussions.
- Application of scientific vocabulary
- Meaningful homework

### Transfer Task

Compare the parts of a cell to the parts of a school or town community, and describe correlations between the functions of the two. Students must use at least 6 organelles in the description, include the processes of photosynthesis and cellular respiration, and show how the parts of a cell and the parts of a school/community perform similar functions.



Unit Title / Topic: Earth's Dynamic Systems

Unit Duration: 40 days

Stage 1: Desired Results

Established Goals:

- MS-ESS1-4. Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence from rock strata for how the geologic time scale is used to organize Earth's 4.6-billion-year-old history.
MS-ESS2-1. Develop a model to describe the cycling of Earth's materials and the flow of energy that drives this process.
MS-ESS2-2. Construct an explanation based on evidence for how geoscience processes have changed Earth's surface at varying time and spatial scales.
MS-ESS2-3. Analyze and interpret data on the distribution of fossils and rocks, continental shapes, and seafloor structures to provide evidence of the past plate motions.
MS-ESS3-1. Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for how the uneven distributions of Earth's mineral, energy, and groundwater resources are the result of past and current geoscience processes.
MS-ESS3-2. Analyze and interpret data on natural hazards to forecast future catastrophic events and inform the development of technologies to mitigate their effects.

Table with 3 columns: Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts. Each column contains detailed standards and connections.

- Common Core State Standards Connections:
ELA/Literacy - RST.6-8.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts.
Mathematics - MP.2 Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
Science - WHST.6-8.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively.

Transfer Goal:

Students will be able to independently use their learning to explain how the systems that make up the Earth's rocky surface constantly undergo changes.

Students will understand that:

- The dynamic systems of Earth changes its surface.
The dynamic systems of Earth can be used to understand the past and prepare for the future.
Earth is a dynamic planet undergoing constant changes at different sizes and timescales.
Geologic processes cause changes that can be rapid or gradual.
Scientific explanations are based on evidence reasoning.
Fossilized organisms and rock features are the result of geologic processes.
Geologic processes continue to change Earth's surface in the present day.
Scientific discoveries are subject to reevaluation, and explanations may be revised based on new evidence.

Essential Questions:

- L2: Why are some structures damaged when Earth shakes?
L3: How can we collect data about earthquakes?
L4: How do changes in the lithosphere affect Earth's surface?
L5: How do heat and pressure impact geologic features?
L8: How have geoscience processes changed Earth's surface?
L9: What do fossils and layers of sediment tell us about Earth's past?
L10: How do geoscience processes impact the distribution of resources on Earth?
L11: What evidence suggests that Earth is a dynamic geological system?
L12: How can we use knowledge of Earth's dynamic systems to understand the past and prepare for the future?

Students will know:

- Abrasion, aftershock, asthenosphere, biodiversity, body wave, brittle, cinder cone, cinder cone volcano, composite volcano, constraint, constructive, continental crust, continental drift, controlled experiment, convection, convection mantle, convergent plate boundary, core, crater, criteria, crust, deformation, dependent variable, deposition, diagram, divergent plate boundary, ductile, dynamic, earthquake, earthquake swarm, elasticity, epicenter, erosion, excavate, fault, fissure, force, fossil, fossil record, fracture, friction, geology, geyser, glacial ablation, glacial rebound, glacier, groundwater, groundwater mining, hot spot, hot spring, igneous rock, impact crater, independent variable, index fossil, index of refraction, intensity, lahar, landfill mining, landform, latitude, law of superposition, lithosphere, loess, longitude, magma, magnetite, magnitude, mantle, metamorphic rock, mineral, mitigate, model, modification, moraine, oceanic ridge, oceanic trench, optimize, P-wave, paleontology, pangaea, petrology, plate, plate boundary, plate tectonics, prototype, rift valley, ring of fire, rock cycle, s-Wave, sand dune, seafloor spreading, sedimentary rock, sediments, seismic station, seismic wave, seismogram, seismograph, seismology, seismometer, sinkhole, strain, strata, stress, subduction, submarine, supercontinent, surface wave, suspended load, tectonic plate, tiltmeter, transform plate boundary, Tsunami, vent, viscosity, weathering

Students will be able to:

- Use models to identify locations associated with geologic processes and phenomena.
Examine real-world observations and images related to geologic processes and phenomena.
Describe what a data set represents and interpret similarities and differences within it.
Use evidence and reasoning to construct explanations for geologic processes and phenomena related to the Burgess Shale.
Reflect on how geologic processes affect a landscape.

## Stage 2: Acceptable Evidence

### Transfer Task

#### Acceptable Evidence:

##### Formal

- Teacher made quizzes that emphasize transfer of knowledge
- Performance based assessments
- Laboratory Reports

##### Informal

- Class discussion
- Journaling
- Application of scientific concepts in class conversations, debates and discussions.
- Application of scientific vocabulary
- Meaningful homework

### Transfer Task

Students will research geodynamic events (earthquakes) in a specific geographic region. Then students will analyze and interpret data from their research to look for patterns, write proposals for geodynamic event preparedness, and present their findings to the class.