



School Year 2020-21

Course Name	K-5 STEM	Course Code	
School Name	Sagamore Hills Elementary	Teacher Name	Stephanie Spencer
School Phone Number	678-243-0180	Teacher Email	stephanie_s_spencer@dekalbschoolsga.org
School Website	http://www.sagamorehillsses.dekalb.k12.ga.us/	Teacher Website	

Course Description

STEM is a curriculum focusing on standards-based structured inquiry and real world problem-based learning while connecting all four of the STEM subjects; science, technology, engineering and math. It also develops an awareness of the STEM fields and occupations.

Curriculum Overview

The following academic concepts will be covered. **THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.** Below are the science standards which the STEM projects are based.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW—k
Unit 1– Composition: properties of matter, floating/sinking
Unit 2 – Living and Nonliving: needs of animals and plants
Unit 3 – Classifying organisms: plants and animals and stages of development
Unit 4 – Motion: Push/pull, energy and matter

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW-1
Unit 1 – Weather and Seasons: roles of water, weather and climate
Unit 2 – Light and Sound: vibrations, sources of light
Unit 3 – Magnets: push and pull, speed, cause/effect
Unit 4 – Characteristics of Plants: plant parts, needs and interactions

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW—2
Unit 1 – Life Cycles: plants and animals, pollination
Unit 2 – Matter: heating and cooling, properties of matter
Unit 3 – Motion: Push/pull, forces and motion
Unit 4 – Stars: patterns of the moon, sun and stars; day and night

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW—3
Unit 1 – Habitats: adaptation, conservation of energy
Unit 2 – Pollution: Human impacts, human activity, adaptation
Unit 3 – Heat: conservation and transfer of energy

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW-4
Unit 1 – Life Science: ecosystems, food chains/webs
Unit 2 – Water and weather: states of matter, water cycle, weather instruments
Unit 3 – Solar System: tech advances, stars, planets, moon phases
Unit 4 – Light and Sound: opaque, translucent, transparent; reflection/refraction; vibration

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW-5
Unit 1 – Classification: grouping animals and planets by internal/external structure
Unit 2 – Cells and Microorganisms: plant/animal cells
Unit 3 – Heredity: inherited/acquired traits
Unit 4 – Physical and Chemical Change: physical/chemical change, phases/states of water

GRADING SYSTEM: The DeKalb County School District believes that the most important assessment of student learning shall be conducted by the teachers as they observe and evaluate students in the context of ongoing classroom instruction. A variety of approaches, methodologies, and resources shall be used to deliver educational services and to maximize each student's opportunity to succeed. Teachers shall evaluate student progress, report grades that represent the student's academic achievement, and communicate official academic progress to students and parents in a timely manner through the electronic grading portal. **See Board Policy IHA.**

GRADING CATEGORIES	*GRADE PROTOCOL
Formative and Diagnostic Assessments – 0%	A 90 – 100 ~ P (pass)
Assessment Tasks (Skills & Homework) – 25%	B 80 – 89 ~ F (fail)
Classwork (Guided, Independent, and Group Practice) – 45%	C 71 – 79
Quizzes, Tests, and Projects – 30%	D 70
	F Below 70

Notes:

*English Learners (ELs) must not receive numerical or letter grades for the core content areas in elementary and middle school during their first year of language development. A grade of CS or CU must be assigned. This rule may be extended beyond the first year with approval from the EL Studies Program. English Learners must receive a grade for ESOL courses.

~Elementary schools will utilize P (pass) and F (fail) in Health/Physical Education, Music, World Languages, Visual Arts and Performing Arts.

DISTRICT EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS	
STUDENT PROGRESS	Semester progress reports shall be issued four and a half, nine and thirteen and a half weeks into each semester. The progress of students shall be evaluated frequently and plans shall be generated to remediate deficiencies as they are discovered. Plans shall include appropriate interventions designed to meet the needs of the students. See Board Policy IH.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY	Students will not engage in an act of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, providing false information, falsifying school records, forging signatures, or using an unauthorized computer user ID or password. See the Code of Student Conduct - Student Rights

	and Responsibilities and Character Development Handbook.
HOMEWORK	Homework assignments should be meaningful and should be an application or adaptation of a classroom experience. Homework is at all times an extension of the teaching/learning experience. It should be considered the possession of the student and should be collected, evaluated and returned to the students. See Board Policy IHB.
MAKE-UP WORK DUE TO ABSENCES	When a student is absent because of a legal reason as defined by Georgia law or when the absence is apparently beyond the control of the student, the student shall be given an opportunity to earn grade(s) for those days absent. Make-up work must be completed within the designated time allotted. See Board Policy IHEA.
SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS	
CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS	1.. Follow directions 2. Show each other respect 3. Keep a positive attitude 4. Listen when others are talking 5. Everyone participates
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	STEM Journal, pencil and a variety of common household supplies
EXTRA HELP	
PARENTS AS PARTNERS	

PLEASE SIGN BELOW AND RETURN.

I have read the syllabus.

Student Signature_____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____

Date_____

Additional information to support continued contact:

Information	Parent/Guardian
Day Time Phone Number	
Cellular Phone Number	
Home Phone Number	
Email Address	