



Grade Level Introduction:  
Middle School Science  
2021-2022

**Teacher Contact Information**

**Mr. Joe Beard**

B.A., M.A. University of Arizona  
Thirty years teaching at Casas including 13 years K-8 Computer Science, 1 year 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 6 years 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, 9 years 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, 1 year MS Science

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**Grade Level Description**

At Casas Christian School, Middle School students are encouraged to “learn science by doing science.” The Middle School has a fully equipped science lab where students are provided with many hands-on activities designed to enhance learning, develop problem-solving skills, engage students in cooperative learning and develop critical thinking skills. Students attend a 50-minute science class each school day and are required to complete one or more laboratory experiments or labs each month. Sixth and Eighth Grade students develop, implement, and present their own experiments in the CCS Science Fair. Winners from each grade level go on to participate in the Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

The content area studied is unique to each grade level. All middle school students will begin with a six-week study of health, after that, core studies will begin. Sixth grade students learn about the nature of matter, earth science (including rocks/minerals, plate tectonics, earthquakes/volcanoes, surface water systems, groundwater systems, meteorology, and astronomy). Seventh grade students learn about life and environmental science with in-depth studies of ecosystems, cells, microorganisms, plants, and animals. In Eighth Grade, the emphasis is on chemistry, physics, including force, energy, motion, electricity, magnetism, as well as sound and light. In each of the content areas, the curriculum meets or exceeds state and national standards, and emphasis is placed on a biblical worldview of God’s creation.

**Grade Level Resources**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt **Science Fusion:** Human Body Systems (Health Unit), The Dynamic Earth, Earth’s Water and Atmosphere, and Space Science.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt **Science Fusion:** Human Health (Health Unit), Ecology and the Environment; Cells and Heredity, The Diversity of Living Things.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

**Excel** (Live Your Life, Be Free Health Unit) Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt **Science Fusion:** Motion, Forces, and Energy; Matter & Energy; Sound and Light.

**Special Events & Field Trips (TBD)**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Geology and History Field Trip to Northern Arizona, including the Grand Canyon, Meteor Crater, and many other places.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Field Trip to Catalina Island Marine Institute to learn about marine ecosystems. Includes snorkeling and kayaking.

**Grade Level Weighting**

Unit Quizzes/Tests	50%
In-class/Labs/Projects	30%
<u>Homework</u>	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

**MS Report Card Weighting**

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Bible	1.0
Math	1.0
Language Arts	1.0
Science	1.0
History	1.0
PE	0.6
Health	0.4
Discovery Classes	0.4