



Grade Level Introduction:
Middle School Science
2019-2020

Teacher Contact Information

Classroom voicemail: 878-1309

Mr. Ben Briggs

B.S. Food Science, Univ. of Arizona
Teaching Certification, University of Phoenix
Secondary Science Certification
Twenty years teaching Middle School Science,
Email: benb@casaschristianschool.com

Mr. Tom Honebrink

B.A. Environmental Science,
Concordia College, St. Paul
Deacon of Music, Catalina Lutheran Church
Email: tomh@casaschristianschool.com

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 each week. 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. Sixth grade students learn about the nature of matter, earth science (including rocks and minerals, plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes, surface and groundwater systems, and 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 and physics, including force, energy, and motion, electricity and 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

6th Grade:

Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt **Science Fusion:**
The Dynamic Earth, Earth’s Water and Atmosphere, and Space Science

7th Grade:

Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt **Science Fusion:**
Ecology and the Environment; Cells and Heredity, The Diversity of Living Things

8th Grade:

Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt **Science Fusion:**
Motion, Forces, and Energy; Matter & Energy; Sound and Light

Special Events & Field Trips

6th Grade: Geology and History Field Trip to Northern Arizona, including the Grand Canyon, Meteor Crater, and many other places

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

Grade Level Weighting

Tests & Quizzes	20%
Labs/Projects	35%
Classwork	15%
Homework	10%
Science Fair/project	20%
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