

Inventor Science Course Expectations

Course Name: General Science

Text: Apologia General Science

Instructor: Mr. Boyd

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General overview:

In this course your student will be introduced to the *Cosmos* or orderly universe. This of course is the remarkable and mind-blowing world of Astronomy. We will be studying the celestial bodies in our solar system including earth and the moon, those beyond our solar system including stars within our galaxy, and galaxies far, far away ☺

The course includes reading from the textbook, review activities in the notebooking journal, a few special readings/written responses, web-based video, and most importantly observation of the Night Sky. Each lesson will be covered in one week with a few exceptions. Students will be expected to come to class having completed assignments listed for that week.

What to do before the first class:

- Read pp. 13-24 and Genesis 1:1-9 and 1:14-19; spend 15 minutes looking at the night sky. Count and write down how many objects you can see. How many are moving? What might they be?

What to have with you for each class:

- Textbook
- Notebook for taking notes
- Astronomy Notebooking Journal
- A section in a binder for handouts and returned assignments
- Planisphere

Homework:

Ideally homework should take between 2-3 hours per week. Please contact me if you find that it is taking longer.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given every 3-4 lessons and are comprehensive for those lessons. Approximately four quizzes will be given throughout the semester.

Special Activities:

Students should participate in at least one special activity this semester. See course syllabus **(Aug. 27, Sept. 10, Oct. 8)**.

Grades:

Homework assignments, quizzes, and participation will make up students' grades.

Teacher Notes:

This is a hands-on learning class. This means that the Night Sky activity that is to be done at home nearly every week is critical for your student to develop interest and knowledge about the subject of study. Facts contribute to understanding and appreciation but action and experience cement it. This activity does not require any extra equipment or materials beyond the planisphere already listed as required for class. You may want to consider purchasing a red filter light (reduces loss of night vision while allowing you to see your planisphere).

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Please help your young astronomer establish a weekly routine of Night Sky observation. Students should come prepared for class each week by reading and doing listed assignments and coming armed with questions about the material. My goal is to continue fueling that sense of wonder all children have from a young age and begin adding to that foundation the armor of critical thinking, the ability to wrestle with abstract concepts, the challenge and joy of understanding observation and evidence in light of scripture, and the humility to hold pre-conceived ideas and lofty theories with open hands. When practical we will hold class outside. Please always come prepared for this possibility. I welcome communication with parents and students via phone or email. Thank you for the opportunity to teach your young scholars.