



## Course Syllabus

**Course Title:** Science, Grade 2

**School Year:** 2024-2025

**Semester(s):** 1 and 2

**Grade Level(s):** Grade 2

**Course Day(s) and Times:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00 am- 12:00 pm PST

### Teacher Information

- **Name:** Kendra Etter
- **Email:** [kendra.etter@brancheslearning.org](mailto:kendra.etter@brancheslearning.org)
- **Office Hours:** By appointment only
- **Branches Learning Main Office Number:** (323) 955-0114

**Class Materials:** <https://brancheslearning.org/product/science-grade-2/>

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**Course Description:** This project-based course is all about igniting curiosity and honing scientific inquiry skills. Aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), second-grade scientists explore the wonders of the natural world.

In this course, students will:

- Investigate the properties of matter and discover how materials can change.
- Understand the life cycles of plants and animals, observing how living things change over time.
- Learn about Earth's systems, including weather patterns, the water cycle, and the importance of conservation.
- Engage in hands-on projects and experiments to develop scientific inquiry skills, such as asking questions, making observations, and drawing conclusions.
- Live, interactive classes are offered twice per week.
- Learners complete independent work outside of regular class time.

## **Course Units**

**Unit 1:** Properties of Matter

**Unit 2:** Relationships in an Ecosystem

**Unit 3:** Processes that Shape the Earth

**Unit 4:** Engineering and Design

## **Course Expectations**

- Come to class prepared with materials.
- Attend class in a quiet area where you can focus.
- Have your camera on.
- Participate.
- Submit work in a timely fashion.
- Check google classroom for work to be completed on days not in class.
- Be respectful.

## **Grading Scale**

### **Elementary School, Grades K-5**

- EE – Exceeding grade level expectations
- ME – Meeting Grade Level Expectations
- AE – Approaching Grade-Level Expectations
- LE – Lack of Evidence Needed to Assess Grade-Level Expectations
- WTG – Working Toward Personal Goals Outlined in a Student's IEP

Final grades are determined by the quality and completion of assignments, attendance, and participation.

*Continued on the next page.*



## **Important Branches Learning Policy Information**

### **Camera Policy**

Branches Learning requires students to keep their cameras on during live classes unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Exceptions can be made in rare circumstances if the course teacher, supervising teacher (HST), and the parent all approve a camera waiver.

### **Headset Policy**

Students attending live classes from a shared space must have a headset with a microphone to ensure the class is not disrupted by background noise.

### **Attendance Policy**

Absences must be reported to the course instructor via email or sent to [info@brancheslearning.org](mailto:info@brancheslearning.org). Class recordings are available upon requests.

Attendance and participation are part of the final grade. Students who miss more than 40% of live classes may fail the course. Exceptions may be made if a pre-approved plan is in place.

### **Late Work**

Assignments turned in after the due date will result in a lower grade unless pre-approved by the instructor.