



## Course Syllabus

**Course Title:** Science Grade 3

**School Year:** 2024-2025

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

**Grade Level(s):** Grade 3

**Course Day(s) and Times:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm PST

### Teacher Information

- **Name:** Mary Miller
- **Email:** mary.miller@brancheslearning.org
- **Office Hours:** By appointment only
- **Branches Learning Main Office Number:** (323) 955-0114

**Class Materials** - <https://brancheslearning.org/product/science-grade-3/#Materials>

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**Course Description:** Welcome to our third-grade science adventure! This project-based course focuses on scientific inquiry skills. Aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), we're engaging in topics such as plant and animal life cycles, weather conditions, properties of rocks and soils, and forces and motion.

In this course, students will:

- Explore scientific concepts through hands-on projects and investigations.
- Ask questions, make observations, and draw conclusions as a scientist.
- Develop a deep understanding of the natural world and the forces that shape it.
- Collaborate with peers on real-world problems and create models to represent solutions.

### Course Units

#### Unit 1

##### Physical Science (CA.3-PS)

Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions (3-PS2)

- Work and machines
- Force, motion and energy how things move
- Objects in motion
- Electricity and magnetism

## Unit 2

### Life Science (CA.3-LS)

From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes Plants (3-LS1 )

- How plants grow
- Plant growth and reproduction
- Grouping of animals
- Animal Growth and reproduction
- Animals and their needs
- Animals and their needs
- How animals grow and change
- Relationship among living things
- How living things grow and change
- Life cycles of plants and animals

## Unit 3

Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity (3-LS4)

- Fossils and Extinct Animals
- Earth yesterday and today

## Unit 4

### Earth and Space Science (CA.3-ESS)

Earth's Systems (3-ESS2)

- Water
- Earth in space
- Weather
- Weather and Climate
- Earth's weather and season

**Course Expectations:** Come to class ready and excited to learn!! Please come to class on time, be ready to participate. We are all here to help each other learn. Come with your Science notebook, paper, pencils, pens. Homework needs to be done in a timely manner. The homework is assigned to help reinforce what was learned and discussed in class. Waiting until the end of the quarter to get homework in will not help you understand the material. Late work will result in a dropped grade. I also have a "do over" policy, if you do an assignment and you have trouble you can do it over, and I will change the grade. If you hand it in late then you won't have a chance for a "do over!" I know we will have a great time this year!! I am so excited to meet all of you!



## **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.

## **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.