

Course Syllabus

Course Title: Science, Grade 4

School Year: 2024-2025

Semester(s): 1 and 2

Grade Level(s): Grade 4

Course Day(s) and Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am - 10:00 am PST

Teacher Information:

- **Name:** Kendra Etter
- **Email:** 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-4/#Materials>

Course Description: This project-based course brings science to life. Aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), we're diving deep into topics like ecosystems, energy sources, and the environment.

In this course, students will:

- Explore concepts through hands-on projects and investigations.
- Ask questions, make observations, and draw conclusions as a scientist.
- Address real-world problems and engage creative thinking to find innovative solutions.
- Develop a deep understanding of the natural world and the impact of human activities on it.

Course Units:

Unit 1 - What is Energy?

Unit 2 - Earth Systems: How can we prepare for a natural disaster?

Unit 3 - Waves: Light, Sound, and Information

Unit 4 - How do plants and animals use their structures for survival?

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.

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. 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.