



## Course Syllabus

**Course Title:** Science, Grade 5

**School Year:** 2024-2025

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

**Grade Level(s):** Grade 5

**Course Day(s) and Times:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00 am - 10:00 am 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-5/#Materials>

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**Course Description:** In a collaborative learning environment, fifth-grade science students address the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) as they develop their scientific inquiry and investigation skills. Topics include the structure and function of living systems, properties of matter, and energy in everyday life.

In this course, students will:

- Ask questions, conduct investigations, make observations, and record data for evidence.
- Apply engineering principles to real-world design challenges.
- Enhance their critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills.
- Develop a deep understanding of the natural world and the interconnectedness of its systems.

### Course Units

**Unit 1 - Structures and Properties of Matter-** Learners will explore the properties of matter and understand how scientists classify matter using properties. They will engage in an engineering and design challenge to showcase their learning.

**Unit 2 - Energy and Matter in Ecosystems-** Learners will explore what makes living things alive and how they depend on other living and nonliving things to function.

**Unit 3 - Earth's Systems-** Learners will dive into the various spheres that make up the earth, as well as humans impact these spheres.

**Unit 4 - Astronomy and Space Systems-** Learners will gain an understanding of the solar systems and specifically Earth's place in it.

### **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](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.