

BHC Lower School

Class Description 2025-2026



BROOK HILLS CO-OP

Class:

Course Title: 5th Grade Science - God's Design for Life

Teacher: Melanie Dewaal

Grade: 5th Grade

Schedule:

Day of the Week: Thursday

Time: 8:55-10:25

Minimum Number of Students: 10

Maximum Accepted: 15

Fee:

Total Tuition: \$400

- Deposit of \$50 due April 1st, secures registration and is deducted from total fee.
- Payment Option 1: Remaining balance due August 1st.
- Payment Option 2: Half remaining balance due August 1st, half due January 5th.
- Teacher Venmo: @Melanie-Dewaal

Class Description:

BHC science classes use a rotation of the God's Design series from Master Books Publishers. This year, we will be studying God's Design for Life- a study in life sciences. The course covers three sections: The World of Plants, The World of Animals, and The Human Body. During the study of the World of Plants, we will learn about the amazing structures of plants. We will study photosynthesis, pollination, carnivorous plants, and much more. We will then change topics to study the Human Body. This anatomy topic will cover the major systems of the body- skeletal, muscular, nervous, digestive, circulatory, and immunity. Finally, we will turn our attention to other creatures living on earth as we focus on the World of Animals. We'll study how animals without backbones move, how birds fly, and how insects change in metamorphosis. The amazing creativity of God will be evident as we see each of His unique living creatures!

Most weeks will follow a similar pattern. Students will be given direct instruction for a portion of the class, and we will spend the remainder experimenting with our topic. They will be given a homework assignment that will reinforce our topic for the week. Most of the homework will be reading from the textbook and reviewing notes from class. With very few exceptions, experiments will be completed during class time.

Curriculum & Supplies:

Textbook: God's Design for Life (<https://www.masterbooks.com/gods-design-for-life-mb-edition>)

*If purchasing a used curriculum, older editions of this book may come as a set of 3 books. This is acceptable as the content is the same.

Supplies include:

- 1 3-ring binder with 2 dividers
- Pencils, scissors, colored pencils, glue sticks to be shared with other classes

Tests, Assignments, & Grades:

Students will learn to take tests in a classroom environment. Each grade level will be given an evaluation that is specific to the amount of understanding expected in their grade. One quiz will be given at the end of each unit. At the completion of each subject, a more comprehensive exam will be given in class. Quizzes and exams are given to encourage practice with basic study skills, to evaluate understanding of topics, and to ease the student into comfort with test-taking. Each of the 3 subjects will include a final project. Assignments may include a classroom presentation, a compilation of comprehensive work, or a final classroom activity.

BHC Lower School Expected Skills - 5th Grade:

Beginning of the Year:

- Compose Phrases/Sentences/Paragraphs
- Read Fluently
- Transcribe Phrases/Notes From the Board
- Master Classroom Behavior
- Displays Organizational Skills

Ongoing/End of Year:

- Manage a Multi-Resource Class Time
- Actively Listen During Increased Lecture Time
- Compose Multiple Paragraph Responses
- 2 Project/Presentations
- 1 Essay

Student Responsibilities:

- Be present! Come to class each week.
- Be prepared! Make sure you have your binder, your homework, and a pencil.
- Be ready! Participate in class discussions & activities.
- Be respectful! Treat everyone like they are important
- Be curious! Because science is all about asking questions.

Teacher Bio & Contact Information:

I am Melanie Dewaal, and I will be teaching 4th-6th grade science this year. I am a graduate of Samford University with a BSN, and I have worked for 18 years as a nurse. I love exploring the world and seeing God's hand in every aspect of creation, but I am especially excited to study life sciences with your students this year! I am married to Chris, the children's minister at FBC in Pell City. We have 4 children: Anna Kate, Joshua, Sarah, and Leah. In my free time, I enjoy digging in the garden, making sourdough bread, and sweating at my local Crossfit gym.

Contact: Melanie.Dewaal@bhco-op.com