

CATHOLIC CURRICULAR STANDARDS AND DISPOSITIONS RELATED TO SCIENTIFIC TOPICS K-6⁶

By the very nature of creation, material being is endowed with its own stability, truth and excellence, its own order and laws. These man must respect as he recognizes the methods proper to every science and technique...Whoever labors to penetrate the secrets of reality with a humble and steady mind, even though he is unaware of the fact, is nevertheless being led by the hand of God, who holds all things in existence, and gives them their identity.

Gaudium et Spes, 1965, #36

<i>General Standards</i>			
CS	S.K6	GS1	Exhibit care and concern at all stages of life for each human person as an image and likeness of God.
CS	S.K6	GS2	Describe the unity of faith and reason with confidence that there exists no contradiction between the God of nature and the God of faith.
CS	S.K6	GS3	Value the human body as the temple of the Holy Spirit.
<i>Intellectual Standards</i>			
CS	S.K6	IS1	Explain what it means to say that God created the world and all matter out of nothing at a certain point in time; how it manifests His wisdom, glory, and purpose; and how He holds everything in existence according to His plan.
CS	S.K6	IS2	Describe the relationships, elements, underlying order, harmony, and meaning in God's creation.
CS	S.K6	IS3	Explain how creation is an outward sign of God's love and goodness and, therefore, is "sacramental" in nature.
CS	S.K6	IS4	Give examples of the beauty evident in God's creation.
CS	S.K6	IS5	Explain the processes of conservation, preservation, overconsumption, and stewardship in relation to caring for that which God has given to sustain and delight us.
CS	S.K6	IS6	Describe God's relationship with man and nature.
CS	S.K6	IS7	Describe how science and technology should always be at the service of humanity and, ultimately, to God, in harmony with His purposes.
CS	S.K6	IS8	Explain how science properly limits its focus to "how" things physically exist and is not designed to answer issues of meaning, the value of things, or the mysteries of the human person.
CS	S.K6	IS9	Describe how the use of the scientific method to explore and understand nature differs, yet complements, the theological and philosophical questions one asks in order to understand God and His works.
CS	S.K6	IS10	Analyze the false assumption that science can replace faith.
CS	S.K6	IS11	List the basic contributions of significant Catholics to science such as Galileo, Copernicus, Mendel, and others.
<i>Dispositional Standards</i>			
CS	S.K6	DS1	Display a sense of wonder and delight about the natural universe and its beauty.
CS	S.K6	DS2	Share concern and care for the environment as a part of God's creation.
CS	S.K6	DS3	Accept the premise that nature should not be manipulated simply at man's will or only viewed as a thing to be used, but that man must cooperate with God's plan for himself and for nature.

⁶ The topics covered in these standards, while touching upon the natural world, nevertheless transcend the limits of strict scientific inquiry. Thus they may be explored in various disciplines. However, all science teachers in Catholic schools should be conversant in these issues from a Catholic perspective as they may arise in science class. See Appendix E for Science resources.

CS	S.K6	DS4	Accept that scientific knowledge is a call to serve and not simply a means to gain power, material prosperity, or success.
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