



Welcome to 6th Grade Science 2017-2018

Cohorts 601-604

Ms. McNeil - Mneil@drihscs.org Ms. Nagle - ANagle@drihscs.org

Class Site: Hscs6thGradeScience.Weebly.com

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To provide students with concrete experiences and knowledge of general science concepts.
- To conduct scientific investigations to provide evidence to support or prove theories.
- To develop and enhance critical thinking skills.
- To enhance grammar, writing, research, and presentation skills.
- To create a safe, positive environment conducive to sharing experiences, ideas, and writings
- To work collaboratively and effectively on group assignments and labs.

COURSE UNITS FOR THE YEAR:

- UNIT 1 – Introduction to Science: Scientific Method, Lab Safety, Graphing, The Metric System
- UNIT 2 – Earth Science: Rocks, Minerals, Weathering, Erosion, Fossils, Earth's layers
- UNIT 3- Living Things: Characteristics of Living Things, Cells
- UNIT 4- Ecology: Ecosystems, Populations, Classification of Organisms, Food Chains, Evolution
- UNIT 5- Force and Motion: Work, Simple Machines, Energy Conversions, Newton's Laws

EXPECTATIONS

You are required to write all notes as they appear on the board and as they are given verbally (when necessary). It is important that all notes are recorded in the appropriate Science notebook. Notebooks are to be neat and organized in chronological order (from the first day of class to the present). Additionally, you are required to be prepared and to focus on the task at hand, and you are expected to complete all assignments with care and pride. We give our best daily, and we expect the same from you. If you fail to follow classroom expectations, the following consequences may be issued based on teacher's discretion:

- Warning (verbal/visual)
- Phone call home
- Referral to Dean and consequences

REQUIRED MATERIALS

You must bring all of the following items to class each day:

- Daily Planner & Interactive Notebook (These are provided by the school. You will need to replace it if it is lost.)
- **4 Sharpened Pencils**
- 2 Elmer's Glue Bottles
- 2 Two-pocket folder
- 2 black or blue pens (Pens will be not be supplied by teachers.)
- 1 pack of colored pencils

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Completion of at least one project-based assignment per term and all science labs:

Each research project will have a deadline date. Each day the project is late, 10 points will be deducted.

Completion of Homework:

Homework will be posted online as well as on the board each day. Homework is due at the beginning of the class period. **Late homework will receive partial credit**, unless you are absent. If you are absent, any homework previously assigned will be due the day you return. Sloppy homework (e.g., illegible handwriting, crumpled pages) will be returned to be redone.

Exams:

Exams will be given on a regular basis.. You will only be allowed to make up an exam if teachers are provided with a letter from a parent/guardian or doctor. You should be prepared to take the exam on the day you return to school. If you do not take an exam within a given time frame, there will be a point reduction in your final grade.

Proper Heading:

The following heading must be written on the top of every paper you submit:

First & Last Name

Date

Subject/Section

HSCS 2024

GRADING POLICY

Your grade for this class will be calculated as follows:

- Tests: 30%
- Classwork: 30%
- Quizzes: 15%
- Project: 15%
- Do Now/Exit Tickets: 5%
- Homework: 5%

You also will receive a **work ethic grade**, which assesses students' **participation, effort, and preparedness**.

CLASSROOM ROUTINES AND PROCEDURES

Learning and following classroom procedures allows us to optimize our class time. The following is a list of our classroom routines and procedures:

STAT Position

S – Sit up straight

T – Track the speaker

A – Ask and answer questions

T – Tune in

Noise Level

Teachers will let you know the appropriate noise level before any task, and it will be posted on the whiteboard.

The four possible noise levels are as follows:

0 = Silence

1 = Whispering to a Neighbor

2 = Conversation Within Your Group

3 = Addressing the Entire Class

Entering the Classroom

In the hallways, you may speak to your fellow classmates at a level 1 (whisper). When entering the classroom, you must do the following:

- Reduce your noise level to 0 (silence).
- Place your schoolbag on the back of your chair. (Water bottles must remain in your schoolbag.)
- Get your class binder and complete the Do Now.

Attendance

You are expected to be in class and in your seat on time with all supplies every day. It is your responsibility to see one of your teachers after an absence to retrieve the information you missed and submit all missed assignments. If you are going to be absent for a period of time, please contact one of your Science teachers for any work missed.

Paying Attention in Class

When someone is speaking, we show respect and demonstrate that we are listening. The following guidelines will help you understand what respect should look and sound like in our classroom:

- Always sit up in your chair and have your hands folded on your desk when a teacher or classmate is speaking. Slouching or putting your head down is unacceptable. If you are not feeling well, ask to see the nurse.
- Track the speaker. This means that your eyes should be on the person who is speaking at all times.
- Raise your hand if you have a question or comment. Calling out is unacceptable.
- Respect everyone's ideas. There is no wrong question or comment. We are a community of learners, which means we help one another to master the material in class.
- Show support to classmates after presentations (e.g., applauding).

During group discussions and activities, teachers will be walking around the classroom. To get everyone's attention, the following will happen:

- The teacher will say, "Track me" or ring a bell while holding up a closed fist (0) for silence.
- All students will stop talking and freeze in place while tracking the teacher.

Students will listen to the teacher for further instructions.

Bathroom Breaks

You may not use the bathroom during the first 10 minutes and last 10 minutes of a class period. During the appropriate time, you may use the bathroom using the following procedure:

- Hold up an index finger
- After being acknowledged by a teacher, sign out in the Student Logbook
- Take the classroom pass before leaving the classroom
- Upon returning, put the classroom pass back in its spot and sign back in using the Student Logbook

Only one student is allowed out at a time. The Student Logbook will be monitored daily to ensure students are not staying out longer than necessary.

Water Breaks

There is a water fountain located in the back of the classroom. Students are allowed to get up and get water during Independent Work time only. A line is not to be formed in the back of the classroom for water. Students are also allowed to bring water bottles to school in a plastic water bottle only.

Throwing Away Garbage

If you have garbage, hold onto it until the end of class or until you work independently. Time will be set aside for you to throw away any garbage at the end of the period.

Exiting the Classroom

The teacher will signal when it is time to prepare for dismissal. A class is ready to leave when the following criteria are met:

- The desks are straight.
- There is no garbage left near your desk.
- Personal belongings and classwork are put away.
- Noise level is at 0.

Tutorials/Extra Help

If you find yourself confused or unsure about a specific topic, please see one of your Science teachers. We will be more than happy to help you.

Resources

Our class website will keep you updated on everything that is going on in our classroom including assignments, resources, videos, and more!

HSCS6thGradeScience.Weebly.com

Teachers can be contacted at:

Ms. McNeil - MMcneil@drihscs.org Ms. Nagle - ANagle@drihscs.org

RETURN SIGNED CONTRACT TO YOUR SCIENCE TEACHERS BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

*We would like to thank you in advance for reading this letter and stressing the importance of its contents to your child. If you have any questions or concerns about anything regarding your child in this class, please do not hesitate to contact us. For your child's **first** homework grade, we ask you to please sign this letter and have your child return it to us no later than **Monday, September 11, 2017.***

Sincerely,

The 6th Grade Science Team

PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT and AGREEMENT FORM:

I have read and discussed the contents of this syllabus with my child. We understand the requirements of the course and we agree to contact one of the Science teachers with any questions or concerns.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian (Signature): _____

Primary Number: _____

Secondary Number: _____

Home Language: _____

E-mail Address: _____