**6th Grade Science Syllabus**

Teachers: Nicole Snipes, Ilea Crum

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Text: Science Explorer: Georgia Earth Science, Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009

There is only a class set available and students can check them out when needed.

Course Description/Objectives: 6th grade science students will work towards mastery of the Georgia Performance Standards (www.georgiastandards.org), focusing on the following topics:

* Scientific Method / Process Skills / Lab Safety / Common Elements
* Rocks, Minerals, Composition of Earth
* Plate Tectonics
* Weathering and Erosion
* Energy Sources
* Water in Earth’s Processes
* Weather and Climate
* Universe and Solar System
* Sun, Moon and Earth
* Health, LifeSkills

Grading Policies: Students’ science grades will be based on tests, quizzes, class work, projects, and labs. You may view grades on Infinite Campus, through Parent Portal, on the PCSD website. There are also FREE Smart Phone apps for checking grades. Students will receive paper progress reports in between report cards to keep you informed of how they are doing in each class. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the teacher directly through email or by calling the school @**770-443-1449** and leaving a message.

Quizzes, Class work, Homework, Interactive Notebook & Labs = **40% (Formative)**

Tests & Projects **= 60% (Summative)**

**Science classes take formative and summative assessments on Tuesdays and Wednesdays!**

Tutoring Days/Times: Science tutoring will be offered every Monday after school from 3:45 to 4:15 in Ms. Snipes room 606, and every Tuesday morning from 7:45 to 8:15 in Mrs. Crum’s room 605.

Expectations: Students will be expected to come to class each day prepared with pencil and composition notebook/interactive science notebook (ISN) for science notes, glue stick, colored pencils, and scissors. In addition, students need to have *index cards, and a highlighter marker* in their lockers for easy access. Students are required to use lab equipment in a responsible manner. They will be expected to complete all required work and participate in classroom discussions and note-taking, activities and projects. Remember, participation is an important part of the learning process and includes active listening, preparation for class, and taking part in the day’s lessons. Students’ work habit grades will be affected by their preparedness and participation or the lack there of.

***Students:***

* You are responsible for having your ISN and supplies in class every day.
* You are expected to be an active participant in class discussions and activities.

Everyone wants to know about **HOMEWORK**… Depending on the individual and the assigned topic, students may have time in class to complete work. Please encourage your child to use their class time wisely; utilizing this opportunity to complete assignments during class and to use classroom resources will benefit each student. Additionally, it will be very important for students to review their science classwork and notes each evening. It may be beneficial for students to take extra time at home making flash cards as review tools for vocabulary and concepts for each standard. Students will be expected to study *at least* 15 minutes each evening to review the day’s class work, study for quizzes or tests, access science websites, ‘teach’ you what they’ve learned, or work on projects. Getting into the habit of regular daily study time is an excellent way to facilitate the transition to middle school and ensure student success. **You should never hear your child say, “I don’t have any science homework.”**

Attendance: Daily attendance and being on time in middle school is extremely important. If the student has to be absent, it is his or her responsibility to check the **Curriculum Resource Area** for missed work. All work will be filed by date and kept in the resource create in the back of the room. Make-up work needs to be completed in a timely manner. For each day of absence, students will have the same number of days to complete make-up assignments. For extended absences and test make-ups, students should make special arrangements with the teacher to go over what was missed and/or administer any missed test. It may be necessary to schedule this before or after school.

Please remember to send in a note regarding his or her absence to the homeroom teacher – either a parent note or a Dr.’s note. It must be kept on file in the front office. Excessive tardies and/or absences will result in notification from the homeroom teacher and the front office. Please refer to the Student Handbook for specific policies regarding attendance.

Classroom Behavior: ***Students, please pay special attention:***

* You will be considered tardy when the classroom door is closed and you are not in your seat ready to begin class.
* As you enter the room, please sit in your assigned seat, and silently copy the agenda from the board.
* Homework should be completed prior to coming to school.
* Warm-ups should be completed in a timely manner.
* If you need to get out of your seat for any reason, you must raise your hand for permission.
* Respect of classroom furniture, lab equipment, and appropriate behavior around the emergency shower/eye wash station and teacher-only areas will be expected.
* Responding appropriately, raising your hand when asking or answering questions, respecting ALL others, staying on task and controlling your talking will be expected at all times. Please make good choices!
* Class will be dismissed at the teacher's direction. Do not pack up or leave until you get my signal. Class will not be dismissed until all materials have been properly returned to their correct locations, trash is cleaned up, and chairs are pushed in.

Behavior Management Plan: Behavior problems in class will be handled using the following steps:

1. Warning by teacher and possible parent contact
2. Conference with student and parent contact
3. Parent contact and writing detention
4. After school detention on Tuesday or Thursday from 3:30-4:45 pm
5. Referral to Administration

In addition, teachers my choose to assign silent lunch to students for failing to follow in class expectation.

Communication: The first line of communication begins with the agenda. Students should be writing information for each class every day in addition to school reminders for special events and activities. Please ask to see your child’s planner when he or she gets home each day and Initial it after review. Communication with parents is also a very important part of our job as teachers. To facilitate communication, please use school email addresses (above). If you prefer to write a note, please remind your son or daughter to turn it in as he or she enters class. We also utilize teacher web pages through the staff section of the Remind website to keep you informed of the class learning schedule, school activities, and donations needed for labs.

Advanced Classes: Advanced students will go into more depth with the content. They will be required to write papers throughout the year and expected to complete additional tasks not assigned to the regular students. If a student fails to maintain an 70 average for the quarter, then he or she will be placed on academic probation. After two unsatisfactory quarters, then that student may be removed from the class.

Thank you for your support and cooperation. We look forward to staying in touch with you regarding all aspects of middle school and to having a successful year at P.B. Ritch Middle!

Nicole Snipes and Ilea Crum

**Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**