

HALE MIDDLE SCHOOL
GRADE SIX EARTH SCIENCE
MR. WHITAKER
2011-2012

Welcome to 6th grade science! This year we will explore several exciting science topics related to the field of earth science. The 6th grade curriculum is divided into five units: measurement, matter, weather, inside the earth, and the earth's changing surface. Each unit focuses on several questions that are designed to guide your learning and thinking. I am look forward to an exciting year of science!

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Please read through the following course expectations with a parent or guardian and complete then return the slip below.

1. Read and understand all the rules established in the student handbook. Practice the Hale Middle School Core Values:
 - **Respect yourself**
 - **Respect each other**
 - **Respect your environment.**
2. Arrive to class on time with your interactive science notebook (INB), assignment book, completed homework, and a pencil. You may not go back to your locker during class.
3. Use the beginning of class time efficiently:
 - Record daily homework in assignment book.
 - Update your interactive notebook.
 - Place homework assignments on your desk.
 - Start the Problem of the Day (POD).
4. Listen carefully to all activity instructions and follow safety procedures at all times.
5. Maintain a clean workspace and clean up after yourself.

HOMEWORK

1. Homework assignments will be given 4-5 times a week and are posted on the homework board at the front of the class as well as on the class website.
2. Assignments will be checked daily and collected occasionally.
3. Homework will be graded as checks (\checkmark = full credit, $\checkmark-$ = half credit, 0 = no credit).
4. Assignments turned in one day late will be graded as a $\checkmark-$. No credit will be give for homework assignments turned in after two days. **Students who fail to complete homework for a given day may stay in for recess to receive 90% credit.**

*****A note about homework*****

Homework assignments are designed to be 15-20 minutes long. If a particular assignment takes more than 30 minutes, the student should bring in their attempted assignment with a note explaining why they had difficulty accompanied by a parent signature. Students will then need to attend an extra help session to receive full credit.

INTERACTIVE SCIENCE NOTEBOOK

Each student will maintain an interactive notebook which will be further explained in class. The purpose of this notebook is to keep class materials organized and accessible. This notebook will occasionally be collected and graded.

ABSENCE

- If you are absent from school it is your responsibility to make up any missed assignments or labs.
- Assignments from the previous class can be found on the missed work board.
- Any assignments that were due the day you were absent are due the day you return to class.
- Students will have two days to make-up missed assignments.
- Students should check the absent binder for any INB pages they did not receive while they were absent.

SEATING/ GROUP ARRANGEMENTS

The teacher will assign group seating arrangements which are subject to change. During class and group work students will be assigned group roles on a rotating basis including: getter, starter, recorder, and reporter/observer. These roles are designed to encourage communication and cooperation and will be further explained in class.

EXTRA HELP

Extra help sessions will take place every Tuesday afternoon until 3:30. All students must bring in a signed note from their parents indicating that they are staying for extra help. The note should indicate what time the student will be picked up. Additional extra help before or after school is always available upon request.

TESTS & QUIZZES

Tests and projects will be administered to assess each student's understanding of unit concepts. Review sessions will be held during extra help sessions prior to tests. Quizzes will be used to assess smaller amounts of information.

Tests may be retaken for credit after an extra help session with the teacher. The final score earned will be an average of the two test scores.

Quizzes may be retaken for the first trimester only, after this time students can complete quiz corrections which will allow them to earn back 25% of the points they lost with the lowest possible score of 65%.

FINAL TRIMESTER GRADES

Tests	25%
Quizzes	25%
Projects	25%
Homework	15%
Participation	10%

Extra Credit opportunities will be available throughout the semester.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Christopher Whitaker

Phone: 978-879-4788 x208

Email: cwhitaker@nrsd.net

Class Website: <http://hale6thgradescience.wikispaces.com/>

PLEASE PLACE THIS INFORMATION IN YOUR INTERACTIVE NOTEBOOK FOR YOUR FUTURE REFERENCE.

(Cut on the dotted line and return to Mr. Whitaker by Sept 2, 2011)

6th Grade Earth Science Course Expectations

Mr. Whitaker

Student: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____