

September 6, 2011

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to school! We are excited about starting a new year here at Hamilton, especially in science. We believe that students learn science best by doing science. The new curriculum we are using involves many hands on experiments and will give students a chance to work together in the classroom and the new science lab. Therefore there will be very little book work given. This year 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be studying Issues and Earth Science and focus on topics such as Soil Studies, Rocks and Minerals, Erosion and Deposition, Plate Tectonics, Weather and Atmosphere, and the Solar System.

Throughout the year we will also be working on organizational skills and promoting student responsibility. The expectations for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science are listed below.

### **Ms. Andrews and Ms. Badalucco's 6th Grade Science Expectations:**

#### **Notebook:**

- All students will keep a science notebook
- The notebook will be graded frequently for organization
- Students are responsible for keeping an organized notebook and including all activities, notes, and information

#### **Homework:**

- Although science homework will not be given every night it will be given frequently or as an extended home project
- It is essential that students complete work coming home in order to understand and participate in classroom labs

#### **Lab Work:**

- Class time will often be spent preparing for and engaging in different labs
- *Active participation and student involvement is essential in science labs*
- While working in the science lab, safety is our number one priority. Students who are unable to listen to or adhere to lab safety rules will be excused from labs lose points and work independently from the book on the same material

#### **Quizzes:**

- Will be given about once every other week
- Quizzes will be based on vocabulary or conceptual information students are currently learning in the class

#### **Tests:**

- Given after each unit
- Students will be assessed based on the skills and knowledge they learned during class time
- Students will be notified of tests dates at least a week in advance and given class time to prepare, however using homework time to study class notes and activities will also be essential

#### **Retakes:**

- Can be taken if a student receives a D or lower
- *Must be taken within one week of receiving test*

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- It is up to the student to come to us and schedule a retake time
- Retake slip must be taken home along with test and signed by parent; Students who do not return the retake slip within a week may not retake the test
- We reserve the right to limit test retakes if we notice a pattern

**Extra Credit:**

- In general no extra credit will be given
- Under certain circumstances students will be assigned an extra credit assignment
- Extra credit is only for students who have NO missing assignments. Extra credit means *extra* work on top of what you have already done

**Absences:**

- It is each student's responsibility to pick up/ask for missed work and notes from Ms. Andrews, Ms. Badalucco, or a fellow student
- It is also each student's responsibility to make sure all missed work/notes are placed in notebook
- If a student is absent the day of a lab he/she needs to make an appointment with Ms. Andrews or Ms. Badalucco within a week to makeup and/or get information on the activity missed

**Extra Help:**

- We will be available most mornings before school and after school
- Students are welcome and encouraged to come by during these times for extra help, but must ask for pass beforehand

**Grading Scale/Criteria:**

- Lab Work – 50%
  - Notebook
  - Labs/Activities completed
  - Lab Analysis
- Assessments – 50%
  - Quizzes
  - Tests
  - Projects
- \*\* Note: Lab Work accounts for 50% of each student's science grade. Therefore it is essential that students participate in class and stay actively involved

**Incentive Points:**

- Each day students will have various opportunities to receive Incentive Points
- Students receive Incentive Points for going above and beyond and showing individual progress both academically and behaviorally
- Incentive Points will can never be taken away once they are awarded
- Once students begin to collect Incentive Points they can redeem them for various prizes/rewards such as:
  - Homework passes
  - Pick from the "Incentive Bin"
  - Lunch with the teacher
  - Lunch bought by the teacher

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Our goal this year is to help students succeed in Middle School through the promotion of student responsibility, organization, and engaging learning. Students are not given grades in our class, they are earned. Each student must take responsibility for his or her learning experience and grades earned. Feel free to call or email us with any additional questions or concerns along the way. We are looking forward to the new school year and getting to know each and every student!

Sincerely,

Ms. Andrews

Ms. Badalucco

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Phone: 773-534-5484

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Email: [Kabadalucco@cps.edu](mailto:Kabadalucco@cps.edu)

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(Please detach here and return to Ms. Andrews)

I have read and understand the expectations for Ms. Andrews and Ms. Badalucco's Science class. I am aware that if I need assistance I can contact Ms. Andrews or Ms. Badalucco and voice my concerns/make arrangements at any time.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT Student's Name

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

X \_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT Parent/Guardian's Name

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

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