

# Welcome to 6th Grade Life Science!

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What an amazing year we are going to have! During this year, we will be covering a variety of subjects that will help you develop your scientific foundation so that someday you can get paid to have this great job!!!

## Our units will include the following...

- "Scientific Investigations" - As a team we will understand what science is and develop the thought process and use the tools that scientists need to get their exciting job done. We will learn about scientific practices and crosscutting concepts used by scientists to investigate phenomena in our everyday lives.
- "Life Structures and Function" - We will be describing what makes something alive! This unit will also explore the fact that all living things are made from one or more cells.
- "Matter and Energy in An Organism" - We will explore how living things survive. We will discover what chemical reactions occur in organisms to create the energy each one needs to live.
- "Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems" - We already know that living and nonliving things have to work together to make life worth living. In this unit, we will define how we rely on each other to survive and to thrive (get even better).
- "Growth Development and Reproduction of Organisms" - How are we able to move, breathe, digest, reproduce and maintain our health? These questions will be answered as we get to better understand individual organisms.
- "Natural Selection and Adaptations" - Finally we will be spending time understanding why some species no longer exist, and look at the parts of our Earth that help us to adapt to change.

## Expectations...

1. Be on time, no matter what period you are expected to arrive.
2. Be a team player. Walk into the classroom excited about learning and be ready to do what is necessary to allow your peers to learn, as well. Fully participate in individual, as well as group activities.
3. Be prepared. Have your science notebook, assignment pad, and a sharpened pencil with you, each day.
4. Be proud of being the best you can be. Complete your homework and projects on time. Study for tests!
5. Be responsible for your learning. Ask questions!!! Have the desire to be successful. You deserve it.

## Grading:

You will receive grades based on the following breakdown.

- 35 % of grade comes from Class work, group work and labs.
- 45% of your grade comes from quizzes, tests, and projects.
- 10% of grade will come from homework.
- 10% of grade will come from citizenship.

**\*\*Parents/Guardians: please note:** All tests and quiz grades will be sent home on a "Quiz Slip" for your review and signature or found in Google Classroom for your review.. By signing the test and quiz slip, there should be a good understanding of the student's grades when progress reports and report cards are sent home. All students requesting retakes of tests will be permitted, following a note from his/her parent or guardian.

### **Safety in the Science Classroom is Critical**

- Consistent misbehavior or unsafe actions in a lab can result in a loss of lab privileges.
- Should you no longer be able to participate in a lab, you are expected to complete a reading and writing assignment related to the lab.
- Lab privileges will be reinstated once you are able to prove you can work safely and cooperatively in a lab.
- You are graded on how you work as a team. So figure out how to always be cooperative and supportive.

### **Homework and Assignments**

You have a homework planner, so please use it daily. You will have homework several times a week. You will also have projects and extra credit assignments. Your homework will be available on the board each day. Infinite Campus is available to your parents and is accessible through our homepage <http://www.peakskillcsd.org/Domain/11>.

**\*\*Please attempt to show your best work when completing homework and projects. You have the ability, and you will be well prepared to complete each assignment.**

### **Infinite Campus...Seeing your grades!**

You and your parent/guardian can have an ID and password for Infinite Campus. This will allow you to see your grade on each activity that we have accomplished. Through this website, your parent/guardian will also be able to view your attendance and classes. To attain an ID and password to Infinite Campus, go to the district website and access the Infinite Campus folder from the main screen. It will provide you with the request form needed for access.

Okay future scientists and engineers, let's get started! Get excited!!!

Ms. Alvarez

