**6th Grade Science Syllabus**

**North Pole Middle School 2018-2019**

**Ms. Chin**

**Course Description**

Sixth grade science focuses on ecosystems, classification of living things, Earth’s processes and the solar system, weather, climate and gravity. Students will become aware of how science, nature and society interact and relate to themselves. Projects, labs, activities and assignments will help students develop skills of scientific investigation and communication as required by Content and Performance Standards for Alaska.

**Textbooks and Laptop Computers**

We will be using a variety of reference materials. A classroom set of textbooks will be available in the classroom. Chromebooks will be used for research and various assignments on Google Classroom. STEMscopes curriculum will be available online.

**Cell Phone and Electronic Devices**

Devices may be used for educational purposes only. Usage is based on the discretion of the teacher and not guaranteed in every class.

**Grading Policy**

Assignments, projects, quizzes, labs and tests will be assigned points. A student’s letter grade will be determined by the percentage of points earned out of the total points available. Please see the back page for the proficiency rubric.

**Homework and ISN**

Students can expect to have homework assignments that will extend their understanding of scientific topics they are exploring in the classroom. They will be responsible for maintaining an Interactive Student Notebook (ISN) during and outside of class. Assignments, tests, and important dates are posted in the classroom daily. Students should copy this information into their daily planner.

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| **Student Supplies**  Students will need the following basic supplies in science class:   * 1 Composition notebook * 1 Pocket folder * Pencils * 1 highlighter * Glue sticks * Colored pencils * 1 box of tissue * Pencil sharpener * Earbuds |

**Assignment Deadlines**

Meeting deadlines is an important life skill. The assignment completion policy helps students develop personal responsibility and good study habits. Late assignments will be accepted within the same unit without penalty. **Late work will be reflected in the assignment completion grade.** Parents can help promote good study habits by developing a routine and a quiet place for studying.

**Absences**

It is extremely important that your child is in school on time, every day. Science involves many collaborative, hands-on activities. These kinds of assignments are hard to make up. Work can be given for prearranged absences only if the teacher is given ample opportunity to do so. Please let us (teachers and office) know as soon as possible if your child will be gone.

* Students with **excused absences** will be allowed to make up work in a timely manner. Upon returning from an excused absence, it is the student’s responsibility to check the logbook and assignment folder for missed assignments. Take the initiative to stay on top of work missed while absent!
* If a student is in need of additional assistance, he/she should schedule a meeting with me during lunch or after school.

**Tardies**

Please see the NPMS Handbook for detailed information regarding tardies.

**Passes**

Students should make their best effort to use the restroom during breaks and at lunchtime and come prepared with all materials every day. If students need to leave the classroom to use the rest room they must obtain teacher permission and fill out a pass in their planner. Passes will be limited to 8 total per quarter.

**Classroom Expectations**

The North Pole Middle School student handbook addresses policies for dress, conduct, electronic devices and other aspects of school life. These policies are to be followed in the classroom. In addition, I expect students to:

1. **Be a decent human being**. Be kind and polite to one another and to school property.
2. **Come to class prepared**. This means science notebook, SHARPENED pencil, assignments and planner.
3. **Do your best**. Use class time wisely. Give your best effort and you will learn.

When a student chooses to not follow the above expectations the following consequences will proceed:

First time- Warning (name on board)

Second time- Strong warning (check next to name)

Third time- Student leaves class and completes a Behavior Reflection sheet/ teacher conference

Fourth time- Office referral/ Call home

\*\*Severe disruptions: Student sent to the office immediately

**Honor Code**

Students are expected to follow the guiding principles which define honorable, trustworthy behavior. Plagiarism or copying someone else’s work is very serious. Copied work and cheating on a test or quiz will result in an automatic zero.

**Interested in receiving text reminders?**

I welcome all communication from students and parents. You may reach me by phone, email or stop by the classroom before or after school. If you would like to volunteer to be involved in class activities please let me know. I encourage anyone with a background or interest in science that would like to be a guest presenter to please contact me.

**Contact Information**

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\*See back for more info.