

W e l c o m e

M i d d l e

S c h o o l

C o m e t s !



Communication

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How Do I Calculate My Grades?

Homework: 15%

Participation: 15%

Quizzes: 30%

Tests: 40%

Class Materials

- Planner
- 2 ½ or 3-in binder with notebook paper.
- Pencils (colored and regular)
- Glue sticks
- Clorox Wipes

Classroom Rules/Procedures

- Respect yourself and others.
- Listen and raise your hand when you have a question.
- Be quietly in your seat working on your warm-up activity (if there is one) as soon as class begins.
- Take notes daily during lesson instruction. The rule for note-taking: *If the teacher writes it down, it's important!*
- Complete your homework on time.
- Study for all quizzes and tests.
- Come to class ready to work and learn every day, and have a positive attitude about learning.
- Respect your classmates and their property.
- Follow all rules from the school merit/demerit system.
- Follow the rules from the Lab behavior Contract. (See below)

Courses of Study

Each grade investigates topics under **Life**, **Earth**, and **Physical** science.

Grade 6:

Life: Plants, cellular respiration, pollution

Earth: Earth's Structure, Space exploration, Sun-Moon-Earth systems, and Earth's Surface Systems

Physical: Matter, Energy, Thermal Energy, Light and Sound

Grade 7:

Life: The Cell System, Human Body Systems, Reproduction and Growth, Genes and Heredity.

Earth: Earth's Atmosphere, and Erosion

Physical: Force and motion, Kinetic and Potential energy, work and simple machines

Grade 8:

Life: Classifying Living Organisms, Health and Disease, Life in the Oceans, Biotechnology

Earth: History of Earth, Earth's Waters, Resources and the environment

Physical: Matter, Atoms and the Periodic Table, Chemical Reactions

Homework Policy

- A student who turns in a late assignment will be given one demerit and lose 10% per day for the grade, with a maximum of 5 school days late. After five school days, a zero will be recorded for that assignment.
- Regarding absent/makeup work: parents may contact a friend to pick up work if his/ her child is absent from school. OR the absent student can see the teacher upon returning to school to collect missed work. (**NOTE:** The absent student is responsible for getting missed assignments upon returning to school.) A student will have TWO days to make up missed work for every day he or she is absent. Teacher websites found on RenWeb.com are an excellent source for homework assignments.
- If a student is absent on the day a test is given or project due, when the test or project had been previously assigned, that test will be taken or project handed in on the day the student returns to school. Missing a test review DOES NOT exempt a student from taking a test. For further clarification, it is the student's responsibility to see his or her teacher.

Technology Resources

- RenWeb: RenWeb is your go-to website to find student homework and updated grades. A login and password is required, which will be provided by the school office at the beginning of each school year.
renweb.com
- Turnitin.com: Written essays, research papers, and any written assignments will be turned in on this website. It helps the teachers analyze the writing and score it using a rubric. The language arts teacher will provide your student with the required login and password.
www.turnitin.com
- Science textbook: Students will access their science textbooks online. They will also take their tests using this account. The science teacher will provide your student with the required login and password.
discoveryeducation.com



with
MS. PARHAM

What will we learn in science?

All classes will touch on 3 main sciences: Life, Earth and Space, and Physical (physics and chemistry).

Where is my textbook?

We use Discovery Education's online textbook. To access the techbook, go to discoveryeducation.com. Your student's user name is **spxfirstnamelastname** (example: spxbeckyparham). The password is **comets**.

Please read the following and sign it at the bottom! Return this by Friday.

1. No horseplay during science class. This includes, but is not limited to, running, pushing, throwing objects, or misusing tools and instruments.
2. Tell me immediately if you get cut or injured.
3. Listen and follow all directions. Do not start before instructed.
4. Take special care around certain chemicals or hot items. Proper eye and clothing protection should be used when necessary.
5. Clean up after yourself. Everything should be left just as you found it unless otherwise instructed by me. Let me know if something is broken.
6. Do not eat or drink anything in the Science lab unless instructed by me.
7. Do not directly smell any substance. Waft it.
8. Nothing is to be taken from the classroom unless told to by the instructor.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and go over it with your child.
Becky Parham

Student signature: _____

Parent signature: _____

