**6th GRADE SCIENCE EXPECTATIONS**

**(A fast-break classroom)**

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**FOR ALL INFORMATION ABOUT MY CLASS VISIT WWW.MRCROSS.NET**

The sixth grade science curriculum is very challenging for sixth grade students. The textbook dives very deep into a number of abstract scientific ideologies. In order to fully prepare all students for the ISTEP, we must move at a very quick pace. The book is broken down into three major units. The first unit consists of learning about energy and matter. The second unit is all about understanding our universe, the earth, moon, and other planets in our galaxy. The third unit is about interactions of life such as populations, ecosystems, and biomes. Students will be challenged and engaged on a day-to-day basis in the classroom. Through much discussion with Jr. High teachers and students, the number one difficulty noticed for seventh graders is the ability to read through a textbook chapter and summarize the information. A good portion of the science class this year will be geared around learning to read a nonfiction text and take good notes based off of what is read. The ability to be a good note taker will be extremely beneficial for students for the rest of their scholastic careers in junior high, high school, and college. Each student will be given a student workbook which has sections based solely on taking notes from the chapter. Students will fill out this note-taking section in their workbook as they read through each science lesson in the textbook. Generally all class periods will be broken down into segments. There will be a d.o.s. segment (discussed below), a reading/note-taking segment, and a lab/demonstration segment which could include scientific investigation labs, web quests, scientific videos, or guest speakers from the field of science.

**Grading/Homework**

Students will be graded on the list of items discussed below. Final grades are weighted, with each category being worth a different percentage of the students’ final grade. The grade weight percentages are listed next to each category.

**1. Participation (10%)-**I am a big believer in students taking an active role in their learning. Each nine weeks the students will be provided with a participation grid sheet. Each time a student participates in class, I will initial a box on their sheet. Students can participate in class by volunteering to answer a question, reading aloud in class, or volunteering to help out in teacher demonstrations. At the end of each nine week period, I will collect students’ participation sheets and grade them. The first nine weeks, students will be required to get 30 participation points, meaning when I collect the grid sheet, I should have 30 boxes initialed. The student will receive the number of boxes initialed out of 30. That percentage will be their grade for participation. I will allow students to have up to five bonus points each nine weeks. Meaning it is possible to get a 105% on your participation grade for the first nine weeks. The second nine weeks, the number of required participation points goes up to 35, and for the third and fourth nine weeks the requirement jumps up to 40. As I mentioned earlier, students will have the opportunity each nine weeks to earn up to five extra participation points. **It is paramount that students keep this participation sheet and do not lose it, or they will face a deduction in their final participation grade!**

**2. D.O.S (20%)-**The acronym stands for, “daily oral science.” At the beginning of most classes, I will have three questions on the board. Students will be given the first five minutes of class to answer those questions. The questions will be based on the information that was covered during the previous class session, or information that students are struggling with on homework. Once the five minutes is up, students will trade and grade their papers as I go through the correct answers for each question. I trade and grade so that students can receive instant feedback as to how they performed. I will then collect all of the students work and re-grade them in order to ensure that the grading was accurate.

**3. Lesson/Guided Review packets (30%)-**Over the course of the week students will be assigned worksheet packets based on the current and previous lesson material. Students will receive class time to start many of these packets, but will be expected to complete whatever is not done during class on their own time. Each assignment will be worth a specified number of points. Questions in the packets will be a mixture of multiple choice, matching, modified true/false, and short answer essay questions. These packets will be challenging for students, but they will help the students apply the information they learned in class. The packets will also help prepare the students for the state standardized 6th grade science ISTEP test which students will take at the end of the year. **Students can always refer to their notes and textbook in order to help them complete the packets!**

**4. Quizzes and Tests (40%)-**Generally, every Friday in class will be an assessment day. Students will be either given a quiz on the lesson covered during the week or a test over the current chapter of study. Generally, each chapter has two to four lessons within it. Students will be quizzed over each lesson and when all lessons are complete, a test will then be taken over the entire chapter. Students will need to show both concrete and abstract knowledge of the information covered in the lesson or chapter in order to receive an A. Students will be allowed to use their notes from their note-taking section on some tests, thus further validating the importance of taking good notes throughout the week.

**General Notes**

Students can expect to have some work to do for science pretty much every night of the week. However, I rarely assign homework on the weekends. Students will be given some class time for all homework items, and will also be given some study hall time in which to get work done. **I am always available for students to come to and ask questions during study hall time and after school.** All sixth grade teachers will also hold study tables after school later in the school year. I also want to again stress that it is quite crucial that students take care and keep track of all of their materials such as their participation sheet and student workbook. Students losing their materials will not be a valid excuse and will result in poor grades. My expectations for sixth grade students are very high, and I demand that they be responsible for all of their materials for class. Science class for the sixth graders will be challenging and demanding at times; however, if students are willing to fully engage themselves in the class and the work, they will do quite well and find that they are not only better science students, but better all –around students, as well. I have described my class above as a fast-break classroom. We have a lot of material to cover and I move very quickly during class time. It is paramount that I cover all standards before students take the ISTEP test in the spring. The importance of ISTEP for both the school and for me as a teacher necessitates that I move the class very quickly. Students will have to work very hard in my room and I expect and demand that they do! I am very enthusiastic about the opportunity to teach your son or daughter this school year, and I will do my best to ensure that their sixth grade science experience is both gratifying and beneficial. Please visit my website for more information at www.mrcross.net

-Mr. Cross

* **START EVERY ACTIVITY FAST**
* **PAY ATTENTION TO DETAIL**
* **BRING EFFORT AND ENTHUSIASM EVERYDAY**
* **TAKE GOOD NOTES AND USE THEM**
* **RE-READ TEXTBOOK MATERIAL**
* **DO YOUR HOMEWORK! NO MISSING ASSIGNMENTS!**
* **PARTICIPATE IN CLASS (IT IS 10% OF YOUR GRADE)**
* **SEEK HELP FROM MR. CROSS WHEN YOU NEED IT**
* **STUDY FOR QUIZZES AND TESTS**

I have read this expectations sheet and understand what to expect for my child’s sixth grade science class.

Student name:

Parent name:

Date:

(Signing and turning this sheet into Mr. Cross will be worth two participation points for the first nine weeks)