

September 10, 2009

Dear Parent,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child to East Sylvan Middle School and in particular to my 6th grade science class.

It is my goal this year to create a classroom environment where the students can explore current topics and gain a better insight as to how they relate to their own world whether that be local or global. Whenever possible we will do "hands on" activities as students learn better by applying, not just memorizing. Students will hopefully realize when they leave the classroom that everything they do is somehow part of a much larger picture.

The textbooks that we use in class are part of a classroom set and will not go home with the student.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS:

Bring all necessary materials to class

Be seated and ready to work when the bell rings

Respect other student's rights, feelings, and personal property

Copy all assignments into your school agenda

Turn work in when it is due

For me this year it is very important that student's accept responsibility for their actions in class. This obviously includes their behavior as well as academic responsibilities. I am and always will be the best resource in the room for your child. However, if they do not let me know there is a problem of any sort it is difficult for me to help them. Please encourage them to be pro-active in the classroom.

The following is a brief list of Science topics we will study this year.

Characteristics of living things

Animals (Zoology)

Classification

Science Fair

Cells/Cell Theory

Nutrition

Outdoor School Prep

Scientific Inquiry

The Microscope

Environmental Science

Botany

Endangered Species

GRADES: Students grades will be based on a combination of assignments.

Assignments are categorized into 4 basic groups. First there is Class work including participation. Second is Homework. Third are Labs and Projects and finally Tests and Quizzes. Each assignment has a point value. At the end of the quarter I look at the number of points a student has earned compared to the total points and derive an average. In general the grades are as follows:

90% and above A- to A+

80-89% B- to B+

70-79% C- to C+

60-69% D- to D+

Below 60% is an F

ASSIGNMENTS: All assignments are written up on the board and verbally stated to the students. Your child is responsible for writing down these assignments in their agenda that they have all received. You should take an active role in checking their agenda for the daily or long term assignments. In addition, you may check my school calendar on the web for assignments. All work should be appropriately headed with first and last name, class period and date. All work should be neat, legible and written in complete sentences. They should be written in one color of ink (blue or black) or pencil (not both) or they may be typed. Late work will be accepted until near the end of each quarter. However, late work will be penalized. Work that is unreasonably late will earn a maximum of 50% of the original points based on the score they receive for that particular assignment. Students will receive extra time to make up work due to absences such as illness or vacation. It is the student's responsibility to check with me when they return to class and arrange a schedule to make up the missed work. Assignments can and will be modified for any students with special needs.

It is my intention to maintain a current web page that you and your child can access. Current assignments and long term projects will be listed. Also I hope to provide printable PDF files of daily work in case your child misses school.

We will be going to Outdoor School sometime in the Spring of '10.

I encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns at my e-mail address. This is probably the quickest way and most efficient way to communicate. My e-mail address is hgold@pps.k12.or.us or you can call and leave a message at 916-5560.

I look forward to an exciting year in Science.

Sincerely,



Howard Goldstein
6th Grade Science

Please indicate below with your signatures that this letter was read and discussed with your child. Students should keep this letter in their notebooks for future reference.

Student signature _____

Parent signature _____