**Welcome to 6th Grade Life Science!**

What an amazing year we are going to have! Besides having a great time learning who scientists are, and why we need them, we are also going to take on the role of a scientist. 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.
* “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 non-living 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.
* “Ecology -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…**

You need to come to class everyday prepared, ready to learn, and with your brain “in gear”. I know you can easily enjoy and succeed in this classroom. It is important that **you believe this,** too. To aid in your success please come to class prepared. These are my expectations of you *each and every* day.

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.

40 % of grade comes from labs, projects, and in class activities.

45% of your grade comes from quizzes, tests, and non-lab assessments.

10% of grade will come from homework.

5% of grade will come from citizenship.

***PARENTs, please note***: All tests and quizzes will be sent home for your review and signature. Please review the class pages to see when tests or quizzes are assigned. By signing tests and quizzes, 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 rotating project work. Your homework will be available on the board each day, as well as be available on Infinite Campus. Infinite Campus is available to your parents and is accessible through our homepage http://www.peekskillcsd.org/Domain/11.

There are no excuses for not completing homework and projects to the best of your ability. We will make a “catch up” period available for you each 4th period. I can also arrange to meet you before or after school, if you need extra support.

**Infinite Campus**

You and your parent/guardian can have an ID and password, to Infinite Campus. This will allow you to see your grade on each activity that we have accomplished. Use this information to know how you are doing, before you get a progress report or report card. 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.

**Teacher Information**

It is very important that we work as a team this year. Below is the contact information for me. If your parent/guardian needs to reach me, here is the information that will make it easiest for them.

Peekskill Middle School Phone – 737-4542

Email contact information – [ealvarez@peekskillschools.org](mailto:ealvarez@peekskillschools.org)

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

Ms. Alvarez

**First Homework Assignment:**

**Read class expectations with your parent/guardian. Fill this out and return it to Ms. Alvarez.**

Scientist’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Team: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read the Life Science class rules and expectations. Something that I need further explanation on is

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***Parent/ Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Please print name)***

***Best contact method for parent/guardian: (Please circle one and provide the requested information.)***

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Best phone number to be reached on.)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Email address)

Letter mailed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Address)

Something that you would like to share relating to your child’s learning environment is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_