**6th Grade Science Course Guide**

RESOURCES

* Class website: http://ppyne.weebly.com
* Textbook series: Prentice Hall Science Explorer.

MATERIALS

* 2-3 sharpened pencils
* Hard-covered composition notebook (graph)
* Completed homework, if any
* Student planner
* Science binder
* Flash drive

\*All assignments should be completed in PENCIL.

ENTERING THE CLASSROOM

* **Be on time.** This means **quietly** seated with all materials ready and backpack in the designated area by the final bell.
* Immediately copy the homework assignment in your **planner**. This way, you are always prepared!
* Immediately copy the day’s learning goal into your notes. This helps guide our learning.
* Copy the “Write to Think” assignment into your notebook and work **silently** for 5 minutes. This is your chance to explore your knowledge and activate your mind before the lesson begins.

HOMEWORK

* Expect approximately 30 minutes of homework/review one to three times per week after school.
* Use **EFFECTIVE effort** to complete homework. Never leave challenging questions unanswered. These questions are wonderful opportunities to learn! Always do your best or you may be asked to redo the assignment. Homework is graded for completion and effort, not on correct answers.
* **Ask** questions**!** Ask your family, friends, or peers if you are stuck. You can also ask me after class, after school, at lunch, or by email!
* Use yourtextbook! The most valuable thing you can learn in school is how to use the resources available to you.
* **Never** throw work away. Graded work can be an excellent study source for unit tests. All returned work should stay organized in your binder so you can refer back to it. Remember, I am human too and I sometimes make mistakes. If I mistype a score in StudentVUE, saving your work allows you to show me the assignment and I will correct the score.

GRADING

**CONTENT grades include**:

* Summative Assessments (tests & quizzes)
* Formative Assessments (classwork, quizzes)
* Labs & Presentations (performance tasks)
* Conclusions using Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning (C.E.R.)
* Deep Learning Proficiencies

**Personal & Social Responsibility (PSR) grades included in overall score:**

* Participation & Teamwork
* Practice Assignments
* Homework
* Write to Think
* Organization & Preparedness

LATE WORK

* Students should come to class ready to, either turn in their homework, or go over their homework on the day it is due. If a student needs more time to complete an assignment, please see me *before* it is late! Late homework receives a PSR score of “1” unless otherwise arranged with me or unforeseeable circumstances prevent completion. Remember, homework is an opportunity for you to practice your skills and knowledge, make mistakes, and learn on your own without fear. Late work will be accepted only until the end of the unit.

Redo’s/Retakes

* **–** Our goal at Orange Grove is to have all students achieve mastery at a level 3 or higher for all assessments.  If a student does not achieve mastery at the desired level, they have the option to redo/retake the assessment and a variety of methods may be used to determine their mastery of a concept but will reflect the original standard of the assessment. Students may be required to pursue opportunities such as attending academic assistance, meeting with me during lunch, or submitting missing assignments, in order to ensure they strengthen areas of weakness before they retake assessments.

 It is up to the student to schedule make-up times and to ask for help from the teacher.  Makeup and late assignments must be completed and turned in no later than one week after the end the unit the assignment was originally given.

**Personal and Social Responsibility Scoring Rubric**

4 = Student goes above and beyond what is required or taught in the classroom (for example: applying learning to the real world and/or demonstrating beyond grade level proficiency by completing optional assignments/projects)

3 = All work is neat, complete and largely correct. Student demonstrates effective effort and participation.

2 = Some effective effort demonstrated. Work or participation may be inconsistent or incomplete.

1 = Minimal effort or participation is demonstrated.

**General Learning Rubric**

4 = In addition to level 3, in-depth inferences and applications (real world!) that go *beyond* what was explicitly taught or demonstrated.

3 = Student consistently demonstrates all aspects of the CFSD Benchmark and shows mastery of the learning taught in class. Minor errors or omissions may exist.

2 = Student exhibits understanding of the basic, simpler details/processes of the topic. There are major errors or omissions regarding the more complex processes.

1 = With help, only a partial understanding of the simpler details/processes; many of the more complex ideas/processes are not demonstrated.

**Other StudentVUE Codes**

N = No Evidence of Understanding/Missing

X = Excused

R= Received, pending grade

SCHOOL RULES

* Read the Student Handbook! I will be looking for students following the rules!
* One voice at a time. Show respect by raising your hand when you would like to share. I may not be able to call on every student, every time, but please know you are recognized.
* During group activities, practice responsibility by following directions carefully and demonstrate respect for the learning process and your peers.

**Be Respectful Be Kind Be Responsible**

 -follow directions -be courteous -be organized, ready, on-time

 -listen attentively -be cooperative -do your best work

 -talk when appropriate -be accepting -take care of property

 -raise your hand -encourage others -dress appropriately

 -be patient, open minded -be gossip-free -pick up after yourself

ABSENCES

* When a student is absent, he/she has two days per absence to make up all missed work before it is considered “late.” This includes classwork, notes, and homework. Larger projects may receive additional time. When turning in work from an absence, please write “ABSENT on ( date )” so I know it is not late, and place the work in the basket.
* Use the website to stay current: http://ppyne@weebly.com

6th GRADE SCIENCE TOPICS COVERED BY QUARTER

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Quarter 1 | * Weather & Climate
* Freshwater Systems
 |
| Quarter 2 | * Oceans
* Energy
 |
| Quarter 3 | * Plant & Animal Cells
* Flowering Plant Systems
 |
| Quarter 4 | * Human Body Systems
 |

WAYS PARENTS/GUARDIANS CAN SUPPORT

* Check class websites with your child.
* Ask to see your child’s returned papers and discuss/evaluate effort displayed or areas of struggle.
* Ask your child detailed questions regarding what he/she is learning. Learning is exponentially more effective if we teach the material to another person.
* Compare grades from StudentVUE to the work handed back and brainstorm solutions, if needed, with your child.
* Compare the corresponding textbook section to your child’s class notes **with your child**! This is an excellent studying method.
* Communicate with me! You may see or know things about your child that I don’t and I want to make sure your child succeeds!
* Make sure your child has a space at home that is quiet and free of distractions to work. The kitchen table is a great place to work as long as there is very little traffic through the kitchen.
* Encourage your child to save all graded work. They make excellent study materials and serve as a record of their growth.
* Help your child learn to plan their time wisely. Juggling school responsibilities with other activities can be challenging and overwhelming to new middle-school students.
* Be your child’s cheerleader! Let them know that doing well in school is important and that you know they can succeed.