

Dear Sixth Grade Parents,

Welcome to a new school year! I am Ms. Rebecca Gibbs and I will be teaching your child Science. I am looking forward to working with your child this year. There is some general information that I think you will find helpful.

Homework is written on the board in each homeroom. Each student then copies the work into his/her plan book. Many of the homework assignments are very short. Although short, skipping them would compromise their understanding of the next day's work, so an attempt should be made to answer all. I Students who fail to complete three homework assignments in one trimester may receive a check mark on their report card. Homework is not always graded, but it is important preparation for the tests. Students are generally given a week's notice before a test. The date is also written on the board and on the calendar in the hall.

Science Instruction will focus on these 4 critical areas of the Graded Course of Study that are aligned to the Common Core Standards (C.C.S.) for Ohio:

1. Science Inquiry and Applications
2. Earth and Space Science
3. Life Science
4. Physical Science

Throughout the year, we will be discussing:

1. Science, Technology, and Engineering: what science is, the tools and methods that scientists use in their studies
2. Earth's Resources: Natural Resources, Minerals, Rocks, nonrenewable and renewable resources
3. Cells: the characteristics, the structure and function, homeostasis
4. Earth's Organisms: Classification, Bacteria, Viruses, Protists, fungi, plants, animals
5. Energy and Motion: Energy, Motion, Speed
6. Matter: properties, atoms, elements, substances, mixtures, states of matter, and changes of state.

There will be a couple of projects and lab activities throughout the year. The first project of the year students will be comparing and contrasting animal cells vs. plant cells and a zoology project will be given at the end of the year in April and May. Time will be given in class for both these projects, but majority of the projects will have to be done at home. I have many ideas within the curriculum that we could do as time allows. I do plan to continue the dissection lab which is done at the end of the year in April or May. If anyone, who is Virtus trained, would like to volunteer and help out on that day would be great. I would need two volunteers for the dissection day.

They should learn their vocabulary within the first week of starting a new chapter because without that knowledge, concepts can be very difficult to understand. Children should spend up to 10 minutes each night reviewing their notes rather than waiting the night before a test to study.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please contact me. My email address is gibbs@saintantoninus.org. Thank you for your help and support.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gibbs