

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.

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: Science Inquiry and Applications, Earth and Space, Life Science, and 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.

Additional information for class:

- Students are expected to keep all work (notes, assignments, graded work, tests, quizzes, handouts) in their notebook and/or folder at all times.
- Expect homework on Mondays through Thursdays for all classes. All homework will be collected for a grade and will be checked and reviewed/discussed in class.
- Preparations for tests should include reviewing assignments and quizzes as well as notes/examples from class discussions. Tests and quizzes are usually announced at least a week in advance.
- 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.
- All textbooks can be found online on my google classroom pages in case your child's textbook is left at school.
- 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.

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

Sincerely,

Ms. Gibbs