Grade 6 Science



2017-2018 School Year

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year here at Whitford Middle School and Mrs. Schroeder’s Science Class! This syllabus will help you understand grading policies and academic expectations in 6th grade science.

**Teacher:**

Robin Schroeder

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**A little bit about my philosophy.** This is my 12th year teaching science at Whitford Middle School. I love my job! I incorporate hands-on learning through science inquiry and engineering in almost everything we do. I encourage curiosity and build an environment where it is safe for students to make mistake and take academic risks. Because of this, I encourage students to talk with me if they feel they do not understand a concept, or if they feel the class is moving too quickly or too slowly for them. I also allow (and encourage!) students to study, practice and retake assessments if they did not show proficiency the first time. I will do my best to accommodate all students both in their learning styles and their pace of learning. I expect all students to excel in science!

Academic Learning Targets (ALT) for 6th grade Science. This is what we will be learning and how I will evaluate your student’s progress. These targets are consistent across the Beaverton School District.

* I can explain how different types of energy interact and how energy is transformed

from one form to another.

* I can explain the relationships between electricity and magnetism.
* I can explain the structure, function and relationship between cells, organ systems

and living things.

* I can explain how individual organisms and populations interact and how changes

in populations are related to resources and the environment.

* I can design and conduct a simple scientific investigation with controlled variables

that answers a scientific question with data

* I can design, construct, test and evaluate a simple solution to a defined problem

using appropriate tools and materials.

**Behavior Learning Targets (BLT):** We believe that the following behaviors are critical to academic success. I will teach and give feedback on the behaviors listed below during this school year.

* I can manage my responsibilities as a student.
* I can self-direct my learning.
* I can communicate and work effectively within a team or group.

**Rubrics:** We will evaluate student progress on the learning targets and provide feedback to students often through the use of rubrics. Rubrics will be available soon on this website: <https://www.beaverton.k12.or.us/depts/tchlrn/Pages/secondaryscience.aspx>

**Assessment / Grading Policies:**

 The purpose of grading is to communicate with students and parents how well a student is performing. As opposed to a letter grade, which combines the students’ behavior with academic understanding, separate grades will be given for each academic and behavior learning target.

***Academic Learning Targets will be scored in the following way:***

**4** = Highly Proficient: Strong work that shows student has thorough understanding of the topic and could apply it to an unknown situation.

**3** = Proficient: Work that consistently meets the standard and shows adequate understanding of the topic

**2** = Nearing Proficiency: Partial understanding, or inaccurate understanding, needs correction or completion

**1** = Working Towards Proficiency: Beginning understanding of the topic, often minimal response, needs substantial correction or completion

***Behavior Learning Targets will be scored in the following way:***

 **C/I** = Consistently / Independently: The expected behavior is demonstrated consistently

and independently by the student

 **G** = Generally: The expected behavior is usually demonstrated by the student.

Sometimes they need reminders, but when prompted, the student corrects the behavior.

 **R** = Rarely: Improvement is needed in the expected behavior. The student does not

demonstrate the expected behavior, or needs frequent reminders to demonstrate the

behavior.

**Homework Expectations:** Homework will be assigned periodically throughout the year as a way to reinforce concepts taught in class, and will often be a part of the Interactive Notebook. Be sure to check your child’s planner each night. Homework is due on the following days:

Core 1: Monday Core 3: Wednesday

Core 2: Tuesday Core 4: Thursday

**Communication:**

Our best line of communication is through your child. Please encourage your child to approach me with any questions or concerns. You may reach me at the contact information listed on the sidebar (email is preferred). I look forward to a great year working with you and your child!

**Optional Donation**

I strongly believe in hands-on science. In order to support the multiple labs and projects we do this year, there is an optional lab donation of $10.00 per student. Please pay all or part as you can afford. It greatly helps our ability to engage in science inquiry and engineering projects.

Please sign this syllabus and return it with to Mrs. Schroeder by Friday, Sept. 15th. The syllabus will be returned to the student as a reference.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Amount of Donation for science supplies: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_