

MR. SIMMONS & MRS. CHOMAN
Eighth Grade Physical Science
Pioneer Middle School
2005-2006

September 6, 2005

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to eighth grade Science! We look forward to working in a partnership with you to make this a successful and memorable year! We hope the information shared within this letter will answer your questions and ease any concerns you may have.

TEACHER GOAL: Our goal is to teach science knowledge and skills that will be valuable to you throughout life. In science class, you will learn to understand and use scientific concepts and conduct investigations to expand your understanding of the natural world. You will also learn effective communication skills to demonstrate your understanding of science. Our classes will train you to be an analytical thinker, one who will view the world with a critical eye. We hope your experiences in science class will be exciting, challenging, and not to mention, fun!!

MAKE YOUR DAY: There is one rule in science class: NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERFERE WITH THE LEARNING OR SAFETY OR WELL BEING OF OTHERS. To enforce this rule, we will utilize the "Make Your Day" citizenship program. The program focuses on the fact that the student is responsible for his or her own behavior and that there are consequences for choices made.

TEXTS/COVERED TOPICS:

Science and Technology Concepts for Middle School (STC). We will be completing two main units of study. Energy, Machines, and Motion (Physics) and Properties of Matter (Chemistry).

SUPPLIES:

1. 4 composition style notebooks. (The first one will be supplied)
2. 2 different colored correcting pens.
3. Glue sticks
4. Colored pencils and or markers.
5. Paper
6. Pencil
7. Notebook or folder to keep handouts.

CLASSROOM STANDARDS:

1. **Tardiness-** Students must be in their SEATS by the end of the bell. If a student continues to be tardy, a tardy contract will be enforced, in which the student will not earn a portion of their Make Your Day points. a. first offense of quarter=2 points not earned (or more based on the number of minutes late) b. second offense=4 points not earned c. third offense=8 points not earned.

2. **Student Conduct-** Students will be earning points for responsible behavior while entering the room, changing seats, moving around for laboratory, or exiting the classroom. Students should not get out of their seats, unless given permission to do so. Students wandering the classroom without permission for whatever reason will choose step 1. There will be plenty of opportunity for movement in this class. When preparing for points, students need to clean up and be attentive.

3. **Contracts-** We reserve the right to individually contract with any student who continues to interfere with the learning of others or my teaching.

4. **Food-** No food or drink allowed in class. No gum. You may bring clear bottles of H₂O with snap down lids to class.

5. **Hall Passes-** Three hall passes will be allowed each quarter. The student decides when to use the passes. Only one person may sign out of class at a time. Please do not lose your hall passes

6. **Seating charts-** We distribute students randomly in seating charts every 3-4 weeks. Friends usually will not be sitting together. This gives you the opportunity to meet other people and learn skills of dealing with other personalities.

7. **Textbooks-** We each have only one classroom set of science texts, therefore you will not be provided with your own texts. Textbooks can be checked out when needed. Homework which relies on the text will not be given outside of class.

8. **HOMEWORK-** COMPLETING HOMEWORK IS THE **STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY**. Time is usually given in class to complete an assignment, and any unfinished portion is taken home as homework. If students need extra help, they are expected to seek assistance from the teacher, or parents before or after school. **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT.**

9. **TURN-IN BOX:** We will announce when assignments are due, in addition to listing them on the board, however, if you are unsure why we have not collected the assignment, turn it into the turn in boxes in the front of the room.

10. **ABSENCE/MAKE UP:** Attendance is critical. If you have appointments please vary the times so you don't always miss the same class. In case of absence, it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements regarding make-up work. You will have the number of days you were absent to make up the missed work assigned during your absence for full credit, as long as those absences are deemed "excused" in the office. Don't forget to use your resources (web page, Calendar).

*If you miss a test day, or a lab day, you may prearrange to make it up before or after school.

12. **Progress Reports-** will be given every three weeks. Parents should expect to review their student's progress and sign the reports. You can also see your child's current grade and daily assignments on our web pages. You just need to know your child's 6-digit I.D. number. (It's on the ASB card.) We try to update grades on a weekly basis. Sometimes when we are working on projects or extended labs its not practical to do so. **Failing to turn in assignments is the single most significant factor which contributes to failure in our classes.**

11. **PLANNER:** Students will be required to bring school planners to class every day. Assignments and daily activities will be recorded each day in the planner. Previewing the planner is a great way to stay informed of your child's work.

12 **NOTEBOOKS-** Students will be required to keep an organized notebook (composition notebook). This notebook will include labs, vocabulary words, and answers to scientific questions. **PLEASE DON'T LOSE YOUR NOTEBOOK.**

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions please feel free to call us before 8:00 AM or after 3:00 PM. You can also e-mail us.

It's important for you and your child to sign this letter after you've read it. Ask your child to bring the signed portion of the document to us.

Here's to a great year!

Greg Simmons

&

Susie Choman

simmons.g@mail.wsd.wednet.edu

choman.s@mail.wsd.wednet.edu

MY CHILD AND I HAVE REVIEWED THE INFORMATION IN THIS LETTER.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian _____ **Date** _____

Thank you for attending Pioneer's Open House! I teach both 7th and 8th grade Integrated Science classes. Integrated Science is a course which encompasses the life sciences and physical science. 8th graders take the course for a year, while 7th graders take it for one semester. The following is a list of units your student will be learning:

7th Grade Integrated Science:

EARTH'S ECOSYSTEMS

**CHANGES IN MATTER
SIMPLE ORGANISMS AND VIRUSES
WAVE ENERGY
OCEANS IN MOTION
EARTH'S SOLID CRUST**

8th Grade Integrated Science:

**CHANGES IN ECOSYSTEMS
ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM
ATOMS AND MOLECULES
OUR FLUID ENVIRONMENT
CHANGES IN LIFE AND EARTH OVER TIME
OBSERVING THE WORLD AROUND YOU**

Pilot: This year we are piloting new science texts. 7th graders will use Science by Macmillan/ McGraw-Hill. 8th graders will use Science by Macmillan/ McGraw-Hill for the 1st semester and Science Interactions by Glencoe for the 2nd semester

Grading Scale:

97%-100%.....A+
94%-96%.....A
90%-93%.....A-

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES: Students will be offered extra credit assignments. Also, students may propose and perform a pre-approved research project at any time throughout the semester. Please encourage your students to do a project such as this.

HALL PASSES- Two hall passes will be allowed each semester. The student decides when to use the passes.

LATE WORK- Late work will be accepted but with the recourse of losing a letter grade for each day it is late.

QUESTIONS??????- Please call me at the school if you have any questions or concerns about your student. I believe that the parent/s and teacher should be a team in an effort to provide the safest, most academically stimulating environment for our children!