Dear Students,

Welcome to Seventh grade science at Ridge Road MS! I am so happy to have you in my class this school year. I expect it will be a terrific year filled with many exciting learning opportunities. We have a great course of study this year and I look forward to many wonderful experiences together while we explore the amazing world of science! Below are some things you should know to ensure we have a successful year.

Curriculum:

This year we have four major units of study. They are:

* Quarter One— *Weather and Atmosphere (Earth Science)*
* Quarter Two—*Cells & The Human Body (Life Science)*
* Quarter Three—*Genetics (Life Science)*
* Quarter Four— *Forces and Motion (Physical Science*)

While this curriculum is challenging, it is also a great deal of fun to study. Our goal is to have as many hands-on lab experiences as possible over the course of the year. We also have several exciting opportunities such as a weather data project, Club Cell, in-class engineering labs, and a frog dissection.

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* Pencil
* 2 Composition Notebooks
* Set of Markers
* Glue Stick
* Headphones/Ear buds
* Suggested: Wireless Mouse

Wolfpack Rules:

* Be in assigned seat and working on Science Starter when you arrive
* Come to class prepared
* Keep Noise to a minimum
* Do not speak during instruction or interrupt others
* Keep your area clean
* No food, drink, GUM or personal grooming

Classroom Expectations:

* Bring your science notebook and writing utensil to class every day.
* Stay in your seat or area unless otherwise directed.
* Raise your hand if you need to ask a question or get out of your seat.
* Keep talking and noise to a minimum as to not disturb the learning of others.
* Close your mouth and eyes on the teacher at the 4-3-2-1 countdown.
* Respect your teachers, classmates, and yourself.
* Keep your area clean and free of debris.
* Follow all dress code policies. You will be sent to the office to call home for a change of clothes if you are not dressed appropriately.

Two of my biggest pet peeves:

* NO Sunflower Seeds or Gum. Ever.
* NEVER talk while I am talking.

Classroom Consequences: Sometimes a student will have difficulty following classroom procedures. At that point, I will assign the following consequences:

1. Reminder
2. Verbal Warning
3. Silent Lunch
4. Call Home (and Time Out to another class)
5. After School Detention/Before School Detention
6. Written Referral to Administration

\*\*This is a general guideline. I reserve the right to skip consequences based on the offense.

C:\Users\VASC\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\73YIDWEH\MC900351958[1].wmfScience Notebooks: One of your major grades this year will be your science notebook. I suggest that you take pride in your notebook and keep all items current. A table of contents will be provided to guide you with your notebook. Every day you will complete a Science Starter in your notebook as well as many other types of labs and activities.

Incentive System: I provide many opportunities for students to earn incentives for following expectations and staying on task during the day. When I see a student on task and/or participating, I will stamp your notebook or give you a sticker. Once a student has collected 10 stamps/stickers, they will be eligible to earn a treat of their choice from the incentive container.

Grading: CMS has now converted to a ten-point grading scale as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A** | **90-100** |
| **B** | **80-89** |
| **C** | **70-79** |
| **D** | **60-69** |
| **F** | **0-59** |

C:\Users\VASC\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\RDK6MAGL\MC900351967[1].wmfHomework/Flipped Classroom: I try to limit the amount of homework you will bring home each evening. Homework assignments will be assigned, however they often will be in the form of digital media (such as short videos to preview the next concept of the unit). I will upload short videos of myself giving a lecture about next day’s topic. You will access the videos under the "Flipped Classroom" tab on the navigation bar of my website. There often will be some sort of short assignment (such as a 3-2-1 or challenge questions) to complete so that I can verify that you have watched the video. By using the “flipped classroom” model, we can spend more time as a class working in groups and with hands-on activities and you don’t have to listen to me talking “at” you. Also, the videos will be available throughout the school year. You can watch them more than once and use them to review concepts that may be a little more challenging to you.

Assessments: You will have several assessments over the course of each quarter. Formal assessments (65% of the student's grade) consist of major quizzes, projects, writing tasks, and tests. Tests will be given on Thursdays. Each quarter students will also have a formal writing task which will be counted as a project grade. You will also receive grades from daily classroom activities, labs, homework, and participation (35% of the student's grade). All grades will be up-to-date on PowerSchool, so please log on frequently to check your academic progress. Please let me know if you feel a grade has not been posted correctly.

Technology: I encourage students to bring their personal devices to use during scheduled class activities. Students are required to have a signed BYOT form submitted before technology access will be allowed. In addition, students MUST follow all expectations for the APPROPRIATE use of technology. If a student is caught gaming, texting, or using technology other than directed by myself or another teacher, it will be confiscated and turned into administration.

Retests/Mastery Learning: Retests are strongly encouraged for any student not meeting a minimum score of 79% on each academic objective.  Students who receive less than an 79% will have the opportunity to retest to demonstrate mastery of concepts.  In order to retest, students must attend at least one tutoring session to review material.  Students retesting will only receive a maximum of 79% in the gradebook for retests.

Late Work: Late work will be accepted. For each day the assignment is late, 10% will be deducted from the student's grade on the assignment for each day the assignment is missing.  After 5 days, late work turned in will receive a maximum of 50%.  If the student misses school for any reason, make up assignments should be handed in within 5 days of returning to school. All of these assignments are available under the lesson plan tab on the navigation bar of my website.  
If you chose not to retest, you will have to sign the original assessment to decline retesting and your parent will be contacted.

Tutoring: Tutoring will be on Tuesdays from 8:00 - 8:45 am. I must receive parent confirmation that you have a ride home. If you are picked up late more than twice, you may no longer stay for tutoring.

Website: My Website is FULL of information. I load EVERY lesson and assignment onto it. You can access it at:

<http://mrsward7science.weebly.com>

Email: Email me at anytime. I check it from home in the evenings and on weekends. I am glad to help you with any assignment outside of school hours. My email:

[annac.ward@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:annac.ward@cms.k12.nc.us)

Text Messaging: If you have technology and would like to receive text messaging, please text the code:

**Block 1: @wardscie1** to **81010**

**Block 2: @wardscie2** to **81010**

**Block 3: @wardscie3** to **81010**

**Block 5: @wardscie5** to **81010**