August 13.th, 2015

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to 6th grade science! My name is Mrs. Gulbrandsen, and I am the Pod 62 science teacher. I am very excited to be working with you this year. As you know, student responsibility is key in making school a successful experience. Student responsibility means that the students must be responsibility for coming to class on time, turning in their homework, studying for test, ect. In science class there is added responsibility due to the laboratory. Students MUST follow safety rules in order for everyone to have a safe and rewarding lab experience. In the *Class Guide*, you will see these rules along with general information about my science class. Parents, please review the following papers with your child. Sign the contracts with your child at the end, detach it, and send it back to school by August 18th, 2014. This will count as your child’s first homework assignment. Also, if your child has special needs of which you feel I should be aware, please don’t hesitate to call or write. Please let me know, too, if you have any questions. I’m looking forward to a great year!

Thanks for your help!

Mrs. Gulbrandsen

  

**Contact Information:**

Phone: 219-956-3143

E-mail: cgulbrandsen@kv.k12.in.us

School Website: <http://www.kv.k12.in.us/mid/>

My homework website: <http://mrsgulbrandsen.weebly.com>

Online textbook: http://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/connected/login.do

**Classroom Rules:**

\*Do not speak while someone else is speaking

\*Raise your hand and wait to be called on

\*Speak positively, negative comments are not allowed

\*Do not touch other people or other people’s property

\*Turn in homework and projects in on time

\*Be prepared for both class and labs

**Consequences:**

Kankakee Valley School District behavior plan will be followed.

\*If a student consistently does not follow the rules, there will be alternative consequence. Some behavior may require students to be immediately sent to the office or given an automatic detention.

**Rewards:**

Praise (daily)

Positive notes/ email sent home

Candy (randomly given)

Homework Coupons

**Grades:**

Grades will be figured based on percentages. Homework will be at the highest a 100%. Quizzes will be doubled so they will be like two homework assignments and test will be tripled which is like three homework assignments. Projects will be graded depending on the specific projects. Students will be required to be prepared for both class and labs. This includes having all materials and dressing appropriately for lab. If a student does not have all material or dress appropriately grades will reflect this. All grades can be looked up at http://powerschool.kv.k12.in.us/public/ with your password. Grades will be updated at least once a week.

 **Grading Scale**

 **A 92 - 100 %**

**A- 90 – 91%**

**B+ 88 – 89%**

**B 82 – 87%**

**B- 80 – 81%**

**C+ 78 – 79%**

**C 72 – 77%**

**C- 70 – 71%**

**D+ 68 – 69%**

**D 62 – 67%**

**D- 62-61%**

**Bell work and Journal:**

**Bell ringers will be given at the beginning of every class. Students should complete the bell work upon entering the classroom. Randomly throughout each grading period I will choose Bell work to be turned in for a grade. It is very important that the students complete their Bell work for two reasons. It is for a grade AND it is a great way to prepare for class each day.**

**Homework:**

**Students will be given assignments throughout the week. It is each student’s responsibility to write down the homework from the board at the beginning of class. Parents may check homework in their student’s assignment book or on my homework website which is** http://mrsgulbrandsen.weebly.com

Students will have time in class to work on their assignments. If the students have additional questions students can come and see me for additional help. Homework can be completed in either pencil or black or blue pen. All homework must have the students name, date and period on the top. If this is not on the homework it will not be graded.

**Late Assignment Policy:**

**Kankakee Valley Late Assignment policy will be followed. Students cheating will receive a 0 no questions asked and subject to disciplinary action. Cheating is ANY type of communication during independent activities or claiming someone else’s work.**

**Early Finishers:**

**Students who have extra time during class may work on other homework silently, read a book silently, or ask Mrs. Gulbrandsen for something to do. NO ONE SHOULD BE TALKING DURNING THE THIS TIME SO OTHERS CAN WORK ON HOMEWORK.**

**Absent Students:**

**If a student is absent, s/he is solely responsibility for finding out what happened in class and what homework was missed. When turning in late or absent work, write LATE or ABSENT at the top of the sheet and put it in the appropriate basket. Attendance is very important! If your child is absent even if it is just for one day please let me know or get the homework from my website. It is very difficult to get make up work done in addition to the new work of the day. I will have work ready in the morning, so if I get a notification I can have it in the office to be picked up at the end of the day. All makeup work is due ONE day after the absence. If you need to request homework after the deadline that the office takes requests, please call and leave me a voicemail or email me. I will do my best to get the work to you.**

**Science Current Events**

**Each week the students will be required to electronically submit a science article. I will teach the students how to submit the article and possible places to get the article from. I also have link on my webpage. This will be due every Monday, in case of a day off the articles will be due to following day. We will start this after I get a chance to teach the students how to do this. I will post a message on my website.**

**Textbook:**

**Indiana Grade 6 i Science, 2012, Glencoe McGraw-Hill. http://connectED.mcgraw-hill.com**

**Class Format:**

**Reading assigned material, class discussion, vocabulary, participation, Lab experience, homework, and review/evaluation**

**Unit Topics:**

 **Methods of Science**

1. **Understanding Science**
2. **Measurement and Scientific Tools**
3. **Case Study: The Iceman**

**Unit 1 Energy and Matter**

**Chapter 1 Matter and Properties and Changes**

**Chapter 2 Energy and Energy Transformations**

 **Unit 2 Understanding the Universe**

 **Chapter 3 The Sun-Earth-Moon System**

 **Chapter 4 The Solar System**

 **Unit 3 Interactions of Life**

 **Chapter 5 Life’s Classification and Structure**

 **Chapter 6 Plant Processes**

 **Chapter 7 Populations and Communities**

 **Chapter 8 Biomes and Ecosystems**

**Science Learning Contract**

**Please return to Mrs. Gulbrandsen by August 18th, 2011**

**In order for each student to have a successful year in science, parents, students and I each have a part to play. After reading this packet as well as this contract, please sign on the line.**

**Student:**

**To make this year productive and successful for myself, I will:**

 **\* Follow the school, classroom, and lab rules.**

 **\* Turn in homework on time.**

 **\* Keep my binder up to date.**

 **\* Notify Mrs. Gulbrandsen of any problems I have with this class.**

**I have read this packet and understand my role as a student in Mrs. Gulbrandsen’s class. I will do my best to fulfill these responsibilities.**

**Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parents:**

**To make this year productive and successful for my child, I will**

**\*Communicate with Mrs. Gulbrandsen by note, e-mail or voice mail when I have a question.**

 **\*Encourage my child to always do his or her best and be responsible for their actions.**

**I have read this packet and understand the importance of my role in my child’s education.**

**Parent(s) Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parents, so I can stay in contact with you and do all I can to help your child, please also tell me…….**

 **Best time of day to call you\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **e-mail address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Best way to reach you\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Any concerns (Allergies for Lab) or questions you have, or anything else you’d like to tell me about your child:**

**Teacher:**

**To make this a productive and successful for each of my students, I will:**

**\*Explain my expectations up front.**

**\*Enforce school, classroom and lab rule.**

**\*Grade assignments in a timely manner.**

**\*Involve parents in the education process by sending out newsletters and communicating concerns.**

**\*Teach according to the Indiana Science standards.**

**\*Be available for the students so they may ask me questions.**

**General safety rules:**

1) Always conduct yourself appropriately in the laboratory. Be serious and alert at all times.

2) Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. If you are not certain about what to do after reading the instructions, please ask your teacher for clarification.

3) Never work alone in the laboratory. A teacher must always be present.

4) Do not touch any equipment or chemicals in the laboratory until your instructor has given permission. This includes the balances, which are very sensitive to tampering.

5) You may not eat or drink anything while performing a lab.

6) Keep your work area and walkways clear of debris, backpacks, books, and other obstacles.

7) Do not perform unauthorized experiments.

8) Know where all of the safety equipment is in the room and how to use it.

9) Don’t play with the safety equipment.

10) Leave the lab cleaner than you found it.

11) Notify the instructor of any unsafe conditions you observe.

12) Wash your hands after touching anything in the laboratory. While working in the lab, keep your hands away from your face.

13) Pay attention to your experimental apparatus at all times. Unattended laboratory equipment is a serious hazard.

Clothing and protective equipment:

14) **Goggles must be worn in the laboratory at all times until all students are finished working. Failure to wear goggles will result in a zero on the lab assignment and removal from the laboratory.**

15) Lab aprons and gloves should only be worn with teacher approval. Gloves should never be worn when working with hot equipment.

16) **Long hair should be tied back.**

17) Loose clothing and jewelry should be secured to prevent accidents.

18) **Shoes that cover the feet must be worn. Sandals are not allowed in the lab.**

Accidents and injuries:

19) Instantly report any accident, spill, or injury to your instructor, no matter how minor.

20) If chemicals get in your eyes, flush them in the eyewash until professional medical assistance arrives.

Using chemicals:

21) All chemicals in the laboratory are assumed to be dangerous. Never eat, touch, or smell any of them unless specifically told otherwise.

22) The proper way to smell chemicals are to waft the odors toward you with your hand, not to take a big sniff.

23) Chemicals should never be handled with your bare hands. .

24) Chemicals should never be placed directly on the balance.

25) Always read the label of a chemical bottle before using it.

26) When moving reagents from one bottle to another, always hold both away from your body.

27) Never return unused chemicals to their original containers without prior permission.

28) Acids give off large amounts of heat when mixed with water. Always slowly add acid to water, never water to acid.

29) Never remove chemicals from the lab.

30) Be careful when moving chemicals from one part of the lab to another.

31) If you spill an acid or corrosive chemical on your skin, wash it off immediately using lots of water.

32) Dispose of chemicals properly. Your teacher will inform you of how to do this before the lab.

Handling glassware and equipment:

33) Never handle broken glass with your bare hands. Use a brush and dustpan to clean it up and place it in a glass disposal container.

34) Never use dirty, cracked, or chipped glassware.

35) If you don’t know how to use a piece of equipment, ask your teacher.

36) Don’t put hot glassware in cold water – it will shatter.

37) Never press down on a balance – it will break.

Handling sharp instruments:

38) Handle sharp instruments with care. Always cut away from your body, not toward it.

Using electricity:

39) Never use electrical equipment in areas that are wet or while you have wet hands.

40) When you are finished using a piece of electrical equipment, unplug it.

41) Report damaged electrical equipment promptly.

**Safety Contract**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (student name), have read and understand the safety rules given to me in class. I agree to follow them and realize that I must obey them to insure my own safety and those of others in the laboratory. I will cooperate to the fullest extent with my instructor and fellow students to maintain a safe lab environment. I will also closely follow the oral and written instructions provided by the teacher. I am aware that any violation of this safety contract will result in being removed from the laboratory and a zero on the lab assignment.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We feel that you should be informed regarding the school’s effort to create and maintain a safe science classroom/laboratory environment.

With the cooperation of the instructors, parents, and students, a safety instruction program can eliminate, prevent, and correct possible hazards.

You should be aware of the safety instructions your child will receive before engaging in any laboratory work. Please read the list of safety rules above. No students will be permitted to perform laboratory activities unless this contract is signed by both the students and parent/guardian and is on file with the teacher.

Your signature on this contract indicates that you have read this student safety contract and are aware of the measures being taken to insure the safety of your child in the science laboratory, and will instruct your child to uphold his/her agreement to follow these rules and procedures in the laboratory:

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_