

COURSE OUTLINE
6th GRADE SCIENCE
MR. NICHOLAS PETERSON
BRYANT MIDDLE SCHOOL
2021-2022

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year. I'm very excited to get the school year underway. This will be my 19th year in the district and my 6th year at Bryant. I've also taught 4th and 5th grade at Howard Elementary and 2nd, 4th, and 5th grades William Ford Elementary. Almost half of my teaching career has been spent teaching 5th grade, so I am very familiar with what skills and science knowledge your child is coming to middle school with.

My goal for this year is to create a high challenge/ low threat classroom community. What I mean by this is that I want to challenge your child, but in a way that builds their self-esteem and confidence as a learner. I believe in teaching concepts in many ways using different strategies and approaches. In my experience that is how they learn best.

One thing I truly believe in is creating a classroom community. That involves all of us working together. When you, your child, classmates, and I work together, they will receive the best education possible.

Suggested Supplies for class

- Plastic duo-tang folder. Make sure it has the part in the center that can hold paper.
- Composition notebook or spiral notebook
- Pencils
- Red ink pen
- Blue or black ink pen
- Filler paper (loose-leaf) ***optional***
- Colored pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- White-out
- Glue sticks
- Scissors(for Home)
- Highlighter
- Ruler(for Home)
- Eraser(s)
- Post It Notes

What We Study in Science:

The state/district has transitioned to the NGSS curriculum (Next Generation Science Standards) and we have gotten a new science curriculum. The unit plans are a work in progress; I will keep you updated through the blog. Visit <https://www.nextgenscience.org/> for more information.

Grading Summary

Students grades are calculated based on two categories, **formative** and **summative** assessment. Below is a description of each.

Formative Assessment (20% of overall grade): Homework, classwork, exit slips, teacher observation

Participating in discussions and activities is imperative to helping the students make sense of the material. They are responsible for being prepared, maintaining their science notebook (details will follow), working appropriately, and participating in activities throughout the class period.

Homework/Classwork Homework assignments offer students the opportunity to think about and practice topics and concepts more in depth. They are very important and help them build the foundation they need. These are directly related to tests and quizzes. Students will have the opportunity to revise their answers as we discuss them in class.

Summative Assessment (80% of overall grade): Tests, quizzes, and projects.

Tests/Quizzes/Projects (Points vary)

During a unit of study, quizzes will be given to keep students accountable for what they are learning and to serve as a tool for me to determine what students are learning or struggling with. Retakes on quizzes are at the teacher's discretion

At the end of each unit/chapter an individual test is given. This provides an opportunity for students to show what they have learned throughout the entire unit. A **study guide** and/or review sheet always provided and corrected prior to a test. For most tests a review session before school is available before school on the day of the test.

Projects will also be assigned as individual or group work. Each project will have a coordinating rubric or point distribution sheet that explains the amount of points awarded based on the criteria.

Test Retakes

Test retakes/makeups are allowed before or after school on the day of my choosing. They will be posted on the blog, written in planners by students, and posted on Schoology. In order to take a retake, students will be required to come with an entrance ticket provided by the teacher where they show evidence that they studied the material again. A sample will be posted on the blog in the upcoming days.

**** The intention of a retake is to allow students who made an honest attempt at preparing for assessments to reattempt a test that they did not perform well on. Retakes are not intended for students who do not prepare appropriately. ****

Grading Scale

A	94%-100%	B+	88%-89%	C+	78%-79%	D+	68%-69%
A-	90%-93%	B	83%-87%	C	73%-77%	D	63%-67%
		B-	80%-82%	C-	70%-72%	D-	60%-62%

E **59% or below**

One of our first activities will be developing rules together and every student signing them, like a classroom constitution. Rules and procedures are then posted, explained, and practiced in detail. In my classroom, any student who chooses to disrupt the learning of others will receive up to two warnings in order to correct their behavior. On the second warning, a parent/guardian will be contacted via phone or email, and a visit to the school responsibility room will be assigned. The third warning in any given class period will result in a detention.

Blog: <http://iblog.dearbornschools.org/petersn/>

Please cut on the dashed line, sign, and return the bottom portion of the syllabus once your child has shared this document with you.

Parent Signature

