



Pine Middle School

“Home of the Patriots”
www.washoe.k12.nv.us/pine



7th Grade Science
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775-689-2550

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Course Description/Outline This one year course focuses on living organisms including their structure, diversity, heredity and interaction with the environment. Using an activity based approach students will work with classmates to explore these topics by making observations, measurements, and collecting and interpreting data to gain a better understanding of life on our planet. Building on content background including specialized vocabulary presented in class students will keep a journal and apply scientific problem solving steps to study live organisms and their interactions with the environment.

Course Goals:

1. To identify and critically evaluate information in data, tables, and graphs and know there are multiple methods for organizing items and information.
2. To evaluate information to distinguish between fact and opinion and know different explanations can be given for the same evidence.
3. Design and conduct a controlled experiment and know how to use appropriate technology and laboratory procedures safely for observing, measuring, recording, and analyzing data.
4. Recognize that scientific inquiry includes evaluating results of scientific investigations experiments observations, theoretical and mathematical models, and explanations proposed by other scientists.
5. Examine the consequences of technologies which can cause resource depletion and environmental degradation, but understand that technology can also increase resource availability, mitigate environmental degradation, and make new resources economical.

Course Schedule & Resources: The following is a projected year-long plan of study for Life Science. An expanded version, including the direct standards, is accessible on the department page of the school website. http://www.washoe.k12.nv.us/pine/dept_content/science/science.htm

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Science Skills & Tools	Human Body Systems	Fast Plants	Heredity
Meet the Creatures	Learning About Learning	Diversity of Life	Organisms and their Environment
Structure of Life	Science Symposium	Science Symposium	
Science Symposium			

Hours of Availability: Due to various meetings and commitments the teacher is available by appointment from 7:15 to 7:30 in the morning and 2:15 to 2:40 in the afternoon. You may also e-mail the teacher and he/she will respond as soon as possible. E-mail addresses are in the planner and on the school website.

Materials Needed: Bring the following items to class each day. There will be unannounced materials checks that will affect the student's work ethic grade:

- Blue or black pens; pencils; 12 pack colored pencils; highlighter
- Lined paper
- Pine Patriot Planner
- Marble top composition book (to be kept at school)
- 3- ring binder &/or dedicated section of a binder for Science handouts

Tracking Grades: At the middle school level students are required to take the lead role in tracking their progress in class, so there is a shared responsibility between teachers, parents and the student to check grades for accuracy and to take steps to address missed work in a timely way to avoid failing.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism: Work assigned to students must be completed in an honest manner. This means doing one's own work. In cases where students are copying assignments BOTH students will receive a zero on the assignment as well as be referred for disciplinary action. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of somebody else's words or ideas. Because of electronic formats, plagiarism has never been easier to commit. This issue is fully discussed in Language Arts and Social Studies classes and the science classes ascribe to the same expectation for citing sources on all assignments. Please consult the documents distributed in Social Studies if you have questions on properly citing resources.

Please detach this portion and return to <Insert Teacher's Name> by <Insert Date Due>

I have read all of classroom expectations for this class, including the rules and procedures. I know if I have any questions, I can speak to my teacher or even send him/her an email. I understand that this is a standards-based or activity-based learning experience, which means that on-time attendance and productive participation are critically important to be successful. Pine Middle School attendance/tardy policies are enforced. I know I am responsible for following these requirements while being a student in the class.

Student Signature

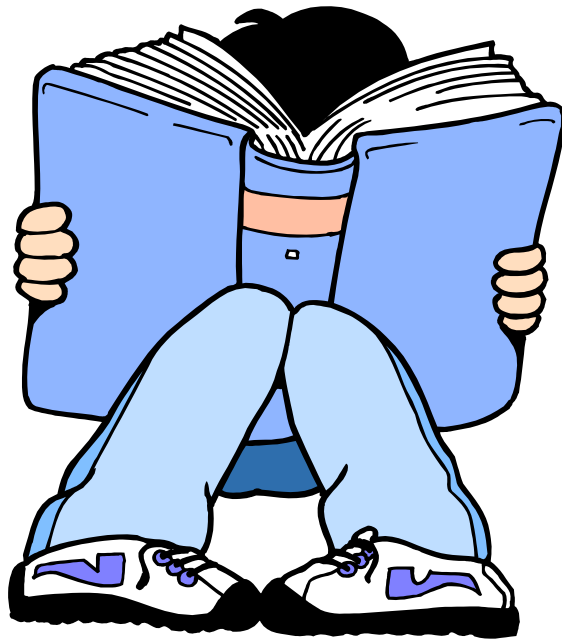
Date

I have read and reviewed, with my child, all of classroom expectations for this class, including the rules and procedures. I know if I have any questions, I can contact my child's teacher at 689-2550 or even send him/her an email (listed at the top of this packet). I understand that this is a standards-based or activity-based learning experience, which means that on-time attendance and productive participation are critically important to be successful. Pine Middle School attendance/tardy policies are enforced. I know my child is responsible for following these requirements while being a student in the class.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Phone Number



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
Classroom Behavior Expectations

All Pine Middle School and WCSD rules and regulations will be followed.

Classroom Rules	
Be Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep aisles clear and sit properly. • Use materials for their intended purpose. • Keep hands and feet to yourself. • Practice good hygiene.
Be Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen and follow all directions. • Be kind and positive. • Treat others as you want to be treated.
Be Responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come to class prepared to learn with appropriate materials. • Complete your own work and turn it in on time. • Put forth your best effort.
Be a Problem Solver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be helpful. • Be an active team member.

It is expected that all students enrolled at Pine Middle School adhere to the school uniform policy and follow all school rules as outlined in the Student Planners. Positive behaviors are always encouraged. Failure to follow the behavior expectations may result in teacher detention, lunch detention, dean’s detention, in-house suspension, Friday Night Lights, or suspension. Failure to report to a teacher or deans’ detention will result in the number of days being doubled. Failure to report to an assigned detention for the second time will result in further disciplinary action.

Grading and Reporting Policies

Academic Meaning of a Grade: Overall Grade	Learning Skills: Work Ethic & Behavior
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades on report cards accurately reflect individual student achievement in relation to course expectations as outlined in the Washoe County School District curriculum. • Grades are based on multiple and varied tasks/assessments over time within a grading period. • Assessments varied in format and task type may include but are not limited to tests, projects, reports, exhibits, presentations and discussions are used to evaluate learning. • Participation that demonstrates understanding or skill can be graded (e.g. discussions, presentations, and performances). • Homework for practice or preparation for instruction may account for a maximum of 10% of the marking period grade. When turned in by the deadline, this homework is given credit. Teachers will use professional judgment to determine the value assigned to partially completed homework. • Homework evaluated for learning counts toward the remaining portion of the marking period grade. • Extra credit may not be used. • Overall grade is reported with letter grades of A, B, C, D, F. • The Overall Grade is factored into a student’s academic GPA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning skills are behaviors that contribute to learning. • WCSD and Pine Middle School learning skills are <u>Work Ethic</u> and <u>Behavior</u>. • Preparedness and Assignment completion, including class work and homework, is reported as Work Ethic. • Participation that demonstrates student involvement/engagement (degree and frequency) is reported as Behavior. • Learning skills are reported with letter grades of A, B, C, D, F. They are not factored into a student’s academic GPA.

Grading

- The teacher will assess student learning in a variety of ways over time.
- Feedback on individual tasks/assessments may include letters, numbers, or symbols.
- Teachers will record grades for individual tasks/assessments with the highest degree of precision and timeliness.

- When using points or percentages, a teacher assigns a grade no lower than a 50% to the task/assessment. If the student does no work on the task/assessment, the teacher will assign a zero. If the teacher determines the student did not attempt to meet the basic requirements of the task/assessment, the teacher may assign a zero.

Behavior/Work Ethic Rubric

BEHAVIOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student is always honest, works well with peers & respects all without any disruption. ➤ Student is always on time. 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student almost always is honest, respectful, mostly works with others well; rarely disruptive. ➤ Student is almost always on time. 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student is about half the time honest, respectful, some work with others; some disruption. ➤ Student is about half the time on time. 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student is rarely honest or respectful, doesn't work well with others; many disruptions. ➤ Student is rarely on time. 	1
WORK ETHIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student always completes work and participates and applies effort. ➤ Student always has all supplies. 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student almost always completes work and participates with some effort. ➤ Student almost always has supplies. 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student has complete work about half the time, very little participation or effort. ➤ Student has supplies about half the time. 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student rarely has work completed, with no participation or effort in class. ➤ Student rarely has supplies. 	1

Late Work

- Tasks/Assessments and Homework will have established due dates and deadlines. The deadline for all assignments will be the end of the respective unit.
- Work turned in after the due date and by the deadline may be lowered no more than one letter grade or 10% of the grade.
- Work submitted after the deadline will be recorded as a zero.

Homework

- Homework will be assigned to reinforce classroom learning.
- Timely and meaningful feedback on homework will be provided; feedback may take a variety of forms, as determined by the teacher.

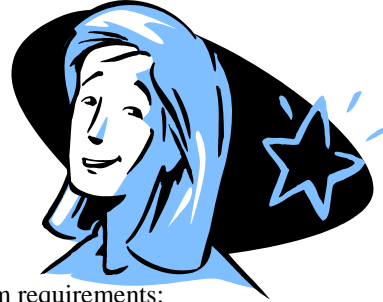
Reteaching/Reassessment

- Reteaching occurs when the teacher determines that students are not meeting learning goals.
- Reassessment opportunities are identified by the teacher before the original task/assessment and occur within an instructional unit. Only one reassessment opportunity is offered per task/assessment.
- Reassessment opportunities will be offered in every course.
- When tasks/assignments are reassessed, they may be reassessed partially, entirely, or in a different format, as determined by the teacher.
- The following assessments/tasks that indicate a final measure of learning may not be reassessed:
 - End of course or semester exams

- Final research papers, reports, or essays
- Culminating projects or performances
- When reassessment is offered, all students may be reassessed, regardless of grade on original task/assessment if they meet the following requirements: complete the original task or assessment, complete required assignments, and complete reteaching/relearning activities as determined by the teacher.
- Reassessment grade replaces the original grade.

Grading Scale

90% - 100% =	A
80% - 89% =	B
70% - 79% =	C
60% - 69% =	D
< 59% =	F



Campus-Wide Writing Expectations

Written assignments in all classes must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Indent the first line of every paragraph.
- Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence that states the assigned topic and captures the reader's attention.
- Include three or more details that support the topic sentence.
- End each paragraph with a conclusion sentence that sums up the ideas in the paragraph and makes the paragraph sound finished.
- Make minimal spelling errors.
- Write complete sentences (subject and verb) that begin with a capital letter, have appropriate capitalization, and end with the appropriate punctuation.
- Write or print legibly.

Textbooks

- Students are responsible for the care and condition of any books assigned to them.
- At the end of the year, students may be assessed fines for failure to return a textbook or if excessive wear and tear of the textbook is evidenced.
- To prevent this from happening, textbooks must be covered at all times.