

6th Grade Science & Environmental Leadership

Mrs. Caruso

Welcome! I am looking forward to a fun and exciting 6th grade year with your child. This is an overview of your child's Science class. I have included some important information to help you understand how your child will be evaluated and what is expected of them in my class. If you have any questions you can email me at Nicole.caruso@fresnounified.org

Check out my class website!!!!

<http://carusosclass.weebly.com>

I post reminders and links to extra copies of assignments. It is a great tool for when your child is absent or lost an assignment.

Make sure you sign up for Remind 101. I use this app to send out nightly reminders as well as communicate with parents through the chat function of the app. See the attached sheet for the instructions on how to sign up.

Curriculum

We will be covering a variety of topics in Earth Science that align with the new NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards). There will be regular hands on labs and research projects completed by your child.

I do incorporate technology frequently in my class. I use a set of class tablets in my room but they will have to do some work on the computer for homework so if you **do not have internet** at home your child will have plan to get it done during AST or Block 8. There are computers in the library that they can use but they will have to manage their time to use them and still get the assignment done on time.

Communication

I believe communication is important between the teacher and parent. I prefer to communicate through email. I check it a hundred times a day and throughout the evening. I respond within 24 hours (usually much sooner). You can also use the chat feature on Remind 101 to contact me as well.

Grading

Your child will receive 2 grades on their report card for science.

Science Grade: Evaluation of Science Standards (test, quizzes, written projects, Interactive Notebook)

Environmental Leadership Grade: Evaluation of the application of the science standards (Labs and certain parts of projects)

Grades are calculated based on points. Larger assignments such as projects and tests will have a higher point value.

Extra Credit: I do not offer extra credit regularly. Occasionally I will send out Remind messages with information about an event in town related to Science that your child can attend for extra credit.

Important Homework Facts

- Your child **should not** have more than 15-30 min. of Science homework on a regular basis. Assignments are started in class and if your child does not finish, it will result in homework. Assignments will be due the next class period. Occasionally a project will be assigned for Homework.
- Daily assignments are completed in a “Interactive Notebook” (spiral notebook). Your child will get a stamp if the assignment is done correctly and on time. Notebooks are collected on test day and graded based on stamps being present and notes completed correctly for that unit.
- AST is a great time for your child to ask any questions about the homework. Since their homework is due every other day, your child should **start it the night it is assigned** so they can ask for help the day before it is due.
- **Late Work: I will take late work up to 2 weeks after the due date.** That assignment will **receive partial credit.** No late work will be accepted after 2 weeks of its due date.
- Late Stamps in the notebook result in a 3/5 on that assignment.
- **Labs that receive below 70% can be redone for a passing grade (70%) if it is redone correctly!**
- **Absent:** If your child is absent on a lab day, they are excused from the lab. If your child is absent on a Note Taking day, they can go on my website and get the notes/assignment that they missed or they can stop by my room at AST to pick up their Absent Packet. You can also email me and ask me to leave it in the office if you want to pick it up in advance.
- If your child is absent they have the number of days that they were gone to complete the work. They also need to see me the day they return during Academic Study Time (AST)

Important Tests/Quizzes Facts

- There will be a **unit test at the end of each unit. There will be quizzes throughout the unit to check for understanding.** Students will be expected to study for those tests and quizzes using a study guide that will be given. No retakes are available.
- **Unit Tests:** I give a practice test that can be completed for extra credit on the test as well as I provide study cards that students can take at their own will to help them study for the test.
- Quizzes are taken on the computer with multiple choice answer selections and timed.
- Unit Tests are given the entire block and have fill in the blank, matching and short response.
- If your child receives below a 70% on a Unit test they will require a parent signature and complete test corrections.

Other Important Reminders

We will attend 2 science fieldtrips this year, Monterey Bay Aquarium and 6th Grade Camp. More information about those trips will be given at Back TO School Night on Thursday!

Syllabus Scavenger Hunt

1. Go to my website.

A. What does it say on the homepage under Announcements?

B. What are the names of the 3 pages on my website?

2. What type of science are we studying this year? _____

3. What is the best way to contact me? _____

4. What type of school work make up your Science grade?

5. What types of assignments will make up your Environmental Leadership grade?

6. **True or False?** You should expect to have at least 45 min of science homework a night.

7. If you have a lot of regular science homework, what does that mean?

8. How does your interactive notebook get checked?

9. What happens if you are absent for a lab? _____

10. What can you do if you score below 70% on a lab? _____

11. What is the highest score you can get on a redo lab? _____

12. If you are absent on a note taking day, what should you do?

13. **True or False?** I give study guides for tests and quizzes.

14. What happens if you score below a 70% on a Unit Test?
