

**West Middle School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science**  
**2013 – 2014**

**Teacher:** Mr. Rob Bruns

**School Phone:** 214-3230

**Website:** <http://service.columbia.k12.mo.us/mrbrunsscience>

**Room:** 128

**Email:** rbruns@columbia.k12.mo.us

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### **Course Description**

Welcome to West Middle School! I am looking forward to an exciting year of getting to know you while learning about many scientific subjects. We will have great experiences studying cells, forces and motion, energy, and ecology. During these units, we will also focus on understanding and developing fundamental science and engineering skills.

### **Course Materials**

- Students will use classroom sets of several textbook for this course.

The following items are required for class every day:

- Single subject spiral notebook
- Pencils or pens

#### **NEED HELP?**

- Talk to me
- Check my web site
- E-mail me
- Leave a voicemail
- Stay after school on most Thursdays

**\*\*PLEASE HAVE YOUR SCIENCE COURSE MATERIAL BY FRIDAY 8/23/13\*\***

### **Grading**

Students will earn grades from lab activities, individual class-work, group work, projects, quizzes and tests. The first semester grade will be an accumulation of grades from the beginning of school until the winter holiday break. The second semester grade will be an accumulation of grades from January to the end of school. The grades for each student will be broken into the percentages below:

Classwork and Homework – 15%

Science Notebook – 20%

Labs - 15%

Quizzes – 30%

Tests – 20%

### **Homework Expectations**

Handing in assignments ON TIME is important. Homework is due at the beginning of class.

Homework handed in after the teacher has collected the work will be considered late.

Late homework will be deducted 20%. No late work will be accepted after the Friday before IPRs are released.

### **Absences and Make-up Work**

Completing make-up work is essential when students are absent. Students will have the number of days absent to turn in missing work. It is your responsibility to make up your missing work and turn it in on time. If you were present at school when work was assigned, and absent the day it is due, I will expect it to be turned in when you return to school.

*If you are absent—there are 3 ways to get caught up:*

1. Check with table partners, especially to get caught up on notes.
2. Check my website OR "The Absent Basket" at the back of the room for handouts, notes, & assignments.
3. I will be usually available after school each Thursday.

### **Classroom Procedures**

In addition to policies outlined in the Student Handbook and Science Department Safety Contract, our class policies are the following:

*Passing in the Hallway*

1. Be courteous of the other grades having class
2. Enter the classroom quickly and quietly

*Once in the Classroom*

1. Once seated, you should be ready with your science notebook and pencil or pen. All extra materials should be on the floor next to your chair.
2. Answer the warm-up question in your science notebook while roll is being taken.
3. Update your Table of Contents in the front of your notebook.
4. Copy down any assignments in your agenda
5. This is the time to sharpen pencils or ask to use the restroom. Restroom usage will not be allowed during class time unless it's an emergency.

*During Class*

1. When someone else is talking, you should be listening.
2. Raise a quiet hand to ask questions or make a comment.
3. Water bottles are ok. No flavored drinks, food, or gum.
4. Pick the appropriate time to ask to be excused to the restroom. I will not always say yes...you need to plan your time before class.
5. Be a good citizen of the Earth—recycle paper the appropriate way in the bin.

*End of Class Procedure*

1. About 5 minutes before the end of class, lab materials will be put away and the day's work will be summarized. Students are to remain seated until they are dismissed.

**Students who succeed in science are:**

*1. A respectful science student will:*

- a. Provide attention to whomever has the floor (teacher or peer)
- b. Treat property/equipment properly
- c. Demonstrate appropriate verbal and physical behaviors and tones:
  - i. Respect adults in the room (including substitutes)
  - ii. Respect your peers in collaborative group work

*2. A responsible science student will:*

- a. Participate
- b. Complete homework on time
- c. Stay on task
- d. Update his or her agenda daily
- e. Access work when absent
- f. Follow and understand safety rules
- g. Seek help

*3. A ready science student will:*

- a. Arrive with needed materials
- b. Be in seat and prepared to start class upon arrival

Please be a responsible Viking and return this syllabus by Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> to Mr. Bruns.

An electronic version of this syllabus will be available on my website and will also be e-mailed home for your reference.

I have read and understand the classroom expectations and policies for Mr. Bruns' Science classroom. By signing this syllabus I am acknowledging my role in creating a safe and positive learning environment and acknowledging my need to be ready, respectful, and responsible.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_