

Dear 8th Grade Science Families:

What combines curiosity, creativity and a desire to find answers? **SCIENCE**, of course! My name is Kathryn Sharon, and I will be your child's science teacher this year. This will be my 8th year teaching at Pathfinder, but my 13th year in the Pinckney School system. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Michigan University and a Master's degree from Marygrove College.

I currently reside in Brighton with my husband, Patrick (teacher at Navigator) and sons Colin (5) and Wiley (2) I enjoy spending time with my family, sports (especially football), kickboxing, roller derby, cooking, gardening and bargain shopping. I am looking forward to a successful school year!

This year we will be studying topics that include: weather and climate, space systems, natural selection and adaptation, force, data interpretation and engineering design. Some units lend themselves better to hands-on lab experiments, while others are best taught with the focus on supplemental materials. Donations of antibacterial wipes are always welcome, as some projects tend to get a little messy!

Eighth graders will not be receiving individual science textbooks. I have a classroom set of books that students can use at school. All textbooks are also available through an online website that students will be able to access from home on their desktops or laptops. More information will be coming home about the online book soon. If you do not have internet access at home, please let me know and we can send home a set of books to use for the year. Students will also be creating their own "Interactive Science Notebook" in class that they can take home to help with homework and studying.

To do well in this class, students must read and complete the assigned work, study with their interactive science notebook and ask questions! Using my online agendas is also helpful for organization and for you to see what is going on in class. A link to my website can be found on the Pathfinder home page by first clicking on the "Students" tab and then the "Agendas" tab. Finally, click on my picture.

I feel that communication is extremely important to your child's success. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with your eighth grader this year!

Sincerely,

Kathryn Sharon
ksharon@pinckneypirates.org
(810) 225-5256

Homework

When there is not assigned homework, classwork that is not finished by the end of each class period becomes self-assigned homework. This will always be due the next class period. Please refer to my weekly agenda to see what's going on in class. Ask your child to show you the work that was done in class to check for completion and understanding. I do not penalize for late work, however, it must be turned in before the unit test to count for credit.

Quizzes and Tests

Quizzes are given more often than tests and both require independent study time. Notes, class reviews and study guides are provided and students are expected to spend time outside of class in preparation for quizzes and tests. Our interactive notebooks are a great resource for studying. Please encourage your child to bring this home every science day. Your child has the opportunity to retake all tests and quizzes if they complete a "Request to Retest" form and make arrangements with me to take the test before or after school.

Grading Policy

I use a point system for all grades in this class. Grades are based on an average of daily assignments, quizzes, tests, and labs. Daily assignments are formative assessments (practice for learning) and are worth 20%. They are often recorded as a completion grade only so we can review the material for immediate feedback.

Tests and quizzes will be worth 80% of your total grade. These are considered summative assessments. (a summary of what has been learned) Students should always retake a test or quiz that isn't your best work. Students may also redo any assignment they feel isn't their best effort before the unit test is given.

Mrs. Sharon's Science Supplies 2016-2017

(please have supplies to school by 9-12-16)

1.5" (or larger) 3-ring binder

Spiral Notebook (1 subject/70 pages)

5 tabbed dividers

***Pencil Pouch with the following supplies.....**

2-3 Glue Sticks

Highlighter

Pencils

Scissors

Crayons or Colored Pencils

Red Pen

Metric Ruler

Calculator

Fine tipped black marker

*****Donations of Kleenex and Antibacterial Wipes are greatly appreciated!**