

September 5, 2017

Dear 7th 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 9th year teaching at Pathfinder, but my 14th year in the Pinckney School system. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Michigan University (Let's Go Broncos!) and a Master's degree from Marygrove College.

I live in Brighton with my husband, Patrick (teacher at Navigator) and sons Colin (6) and Wiley (3). Colin will be starting kindergarten and Wiley, preschool. 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: chemistry and the Periodic Table, waves and energy, and cells and heredity. We will also be doing STEM activities throughout the year, practicing the engineering and design process. 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!

Seventh graders will not be receiving individual science textbooks. I have a classroom set of books that students can use at school and check out as needed. Students will also be creating their own "Interactive Science Notebook" in class that they can take home each night to help with homework and studying. It is very important to keep this organized and up to date.

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.

My website is found two different ways. You can visit: <http://sharonsuperscience.weebly.com/> or by the link found on the Pathfinder home page. First, click on the "Students" tab and then the "Agendas" tab. Finally, click on my picture. On my website you will find agendas, helpful links and the classroom handbook. If you do not have internet access, please let me know and I can send home paper copies.

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 seventh grader this year!

Sincerely,

Kathryn Sharon

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(810) 225-5256

<http://sharonsuperscience.weebly.com/>

## Grading Policy

I use a point system for all grades in this class. Grades are based on an average of daily assignments, participation, quizzes, tests, and labs. Daily assignments are formative assessments (practice for learning) and are worth 20% of a student's grade. These will be marked as a point system in Mistar (1-5) or simply recorded as a completion grade only so we can review the material for immediate feedback.

Tests and quizzes will be worth 80% of a student's total grade. These are considered summative assessments. (a summary of what has been learned) Students should always complete test corrections if they are not happy with their score. Students may also redo any formative assignment they feel isn't their best effort before the summative assessment is given.

## Homework/Classwork

When there is not assigned homework, classwork that is not finished by the end of each class period becomes self-assigned homework. Homework and classwork are formative assessments. They 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. All formative assessments can be redone for full credit if a student has put an honest effort into the original assignment. Late work may be turned in, however, it will not be worth full credit and must be turned in before the unit test (summative assessment) to count for credit unless arrangements have been made with the teacher and student prior to the summative assessment.

## Quizzes and Tests

Quizzes are given more often than tests and both require independent study time. Assessments are summative assignments. 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 science notebooks are a great resource for studying. Please encourage your child to bring this home every science day. Your child has the opportunity to complete test corrections on all tests and quizzes by completing a "Test Corrections" form and turning it in within one week of the original test.

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### **Mrs. Sharon's Science Supplies 2017-2018**

(please have supplies to school by 9-11-17)

1.5" (or larger) 3-ring binder

Spiral Notebook (1 subject/70 pages)

5 tabbed dividers

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

Lots of Glue Sticks

Highlighter

Lots of Pencils

Scissors

Crayons or Colored Pencils

Red Pen

Metric Ruler (mm/cm)

Basic Calculator

Fine tipped black marker

\*\*\*\*\*Donations of Kleenex, Antibacterial Wipes, and glue sticks are greatly appreciated!

