6th Grade Science

Ms. Lauren Harbour - Pumas Team

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**About the Teacher**

Welcome to Mills Park Middle School and the sixth grade Pumas Team! I am excited to start a yearlong journey of fun and learning with you all.

I have lived in Holly Springs, North Carolina since I was four years old. I attended North Carolina State University and graduated in the spring of 2015 with a Bachelor degree in Science Education. I was on the All Girl Cheerleading Team at NCSU and competed four years in a row at the Cheer/Dance College Nationals in Daytona, Florida. Because I have such a strong love for cheerleading, I became a cheer and tumble instructor at the Rockstar gym of Holly Springs. I cannot wait to bring the enthusiasm I have for teaching from the gym to the science classroom!

**Course Objectives**

The complete list of detailed objectives for science is available on the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction’s website, [www.ncpublicschools.org](http://www.ncpublicschools.org). We will begin our year with lab safety and learning how to conduct science labs and investigations using an interactive notebook. Our sixth grade curriculum includes five unit topics. **The Land Beneath our Feet** is our first content unit that describesthe structure of the earth and how interactions of constructive and destructive forces have resulted in changes in the surface of the Earth. Topics for the remainder of the year include: **Growing and Flowing** (understanding the flow of energy through ecosystems and the structures, processes and behaviors of plants), **What’s the Matter** is our content unit which explores the structure, classifications and physical properties of matter. **Catch a Wave (**understanding the wavelike property of energy in earthquakes, light and sound waves), and **Space Invaders** (study of the earth/moon/sun system and celestial bodies in the Universe). Lab activities and scientific investigations will be completed throughout each unit of study.

**Additional Supplies for Science Class (**not on 6th grade supply list)

* **5 subject spiral notebook** (MEAD notebooks are recommended) a second notebook will be needed at the semester break
* **3 rolls of tape** (no dispenser, just the tape rolls please)
* **supplies to keep at home**: scotch tape, sticky notes, and colored pencils

(students will need colored pencils in class, but it is a good idea to have a supply at home as well)

**Textbook - *McDougal Littell Science***

 It is my goal to provide a learning environment rich with hands on activities and opportunities for online science exploration. With this reliance on technology and hands on learning, the textbook becomes what it was designed to be – a source to support learning. The textbook is a great source of pictures, diagrams, and definitions but is not effective in exciting learners about science.  Students will use the textbook as a resource in class but will not be able to take the book home.

**-over-**

**Homework Expectations**

Written homework is not formally assigned on a **nightly** basis in science class, except in completing a long-term project or in preparing for a test or quiz. However, I strongly recommend that students review their science vocabulary on a nightly basis (10-15 minutes). Students will learn different strategies for studying their vocabulary throughout the year. Students will occasionally be asked to take home their Interactive Notebook to complete an assignment or to share their work and keep you updated on their progress for the current unit of study.

**Make-up work**

If a student is absent it is their responsibility to pick up their work from the **Absent** bin in the classroom. Given that many of the activities in science class will be hands on and not paper and pencil assignments, it is imperative that students check with one of their lab partners for any missed notes on labs performed in class while they were absent. Students are responsible for updating their Interactive Notebooks.

**Grading**

The nine weeks grade in science class will be determined using a point system. Every assignment in science will be given a point value. At the end of the grading period the % will be calculated by dividing the number of points earned by the total number of points available. Students will be told point value of assignments in advance. The grades will include tests(25-50 points); quizzes(1-10 points); classwork/labs(1-15 points); projects (1-20 points); homework (1 point). The higher the point value, the more the assignment will weigh on your overall grade. Each grade can be easily translated into a percentage and compared to the MPMS grading scale shown below.Grades will be updated on the PowerSchools system **once a week.** Work that is turned in late will be updated the following week.

MPMS grading scale:

 A 90-100

 B 80-89

 C 70-79

 D 60-69

 F < 59

Please visit harbourpumas.weebly.com for classroom and homework information that is updated weekly! I will post links to classwork and homework documents to this website. Harbour1.weebly.com is your new best friend!

If you have any questions or ideas to share, please feel free to contact me at Lharbour@wcpss.net. I am very excited to get to know everyone and start a great year of learning science at Mills Park Middle School!

Lauren Harbour ☺

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_