

It's a Big Transition!

Junior high is an important transition and sometimes students can struggle with the increase in personal responsibility and academic rigor that it entails.

Determination and organization can go a long way to helping your student not only survive, but thrive. In 6th grade science, we want students to develop their scientific thinking, equip themselves with the study skills and habits that will make them successful in their science classes this year and beyond, and master the learning targets for 6th grade (TEKS).

Tests

- Your student may find the tests in 6th grade significantly more challenging than in previous years. Students will need to study for tests, which count as 50% of the grade.
- Students will get a review sheet for bundle tests, which can be signed for an extra 5 points on the test.
- After each test, students must complete a reteach assignment on their weakest area(s). The reteach will be started in class but the student may need to complete it at home or in tutorials. Completed reteach will allow a student to recover half of their missing credit or receive a grade of 70, whichever is higher.

Daily Work

- Late work: If an assignment is late, 10 points will be deducted for each day it is late. After one week, the highest grade possible is a 70.
- Homework may be assigned as needed; if so, it is due at the beginning of the next day's class unless otherwise indicated.
- Many assignments will be turned in electronically using Canvas, which a parent/guardian can check using their student's iPad or logging in from the DPJH web site.



WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT LOG ("THE PINKSHEET")

- To help our 6th graders with organization, a weekly assignment log will be given every Monday (due Friday at beginning of class).
- Each day, the student will write down learning goals (essential question) and assignments (40 points).
- The back page contains review that students can complete in class or at home (50 points). If not done by Thursday, then it is homework.
- The last ten points are for students to teach you an idea they learned that week; you write the idea and sign the bottom of the sheet by Thursday night. (Research shows that a student's learning is improved when they teach someone else.)

Grades

- Skyward is how you and your student can keep track of your student's grades. The grades will be in one of three categories: major (50% of grade), minor (50%), or miscellaneous (0%).
- Miscellaneous grades are items in the gradebook that do NOT count toward the average but are being tracked, such as whether your student has turned in a signed safety contract.
- You can set up your Skyward to email you every week or when your student's grade drops below a certain point.
- The Missing Assignments list can be misleading. Be advised that any assignment without a grade posted will show up in Missing Assignments, even if the assignment is not due or graded yet.
- A grade that shows an asterisk (*) is NOT a zero; it means a grade has not been entered.

Science Fair

Your student will receive a separate packet in the 3rd week of school giving details about this year's science fair project.

I am looking forward to working with your student this year! Please do not hesitate to contact me for any help in making your student have a successful 6th grade year.

Student Name: _____ Parent Signature _____