**Information Sheet for 7th Grade Science**

Email: Brown\_kimberly@hcde.org

Cell Phone #: (423)421-4326

**What is 7th Grade Science all about?**Seventh grade science will cover standards in geology, biology, and physics. Students will learn the content through reading, writing, labs, projects, and group work. Students will learn primarily through research, inquiry, collaboration, and problem-based learning. A device will be very helpful to your student.

**How can parents and students keep up with what is going on in science?**

Parent emails will be sent out every week to provide information for the following week(s) in science. *If you do not receive an email by week two, please contact me so that I can add you to my distribution list.* Students who wish to receive this email may also provide an email address to Mrs. Brown*.*

Managebac is the online software that will be used to assign work, post due dates, and store copies of rubrics and assessment descriptions. Students will need to know how to navigate, read feedback, and post assignments through this site. Parents will also benefit from having an account and seeing what their kids are seeing.

**How will students be graded in science?**

* Quizzes: Each week, students will have a short quiz to assess learning from the previous week. This quiz will count as a daily grade.
* Notebook Checks: a notebook check at the end of the unit will count as two daily grades. Rather than looking at individual pieces of work, this check will focus primarily on the student’s use of the notebook as a tool for reflection and learning.
* Major Assessments: students will have three types of major assessment grades: (1) tests; (2) papers, and (3) projects. In many units, students may have both a test and a paper or project.

**Why are daily assignments and homework not graded?**

Grading through quizzes rather than daily work has several advantages: (1) less homework allows students more time to enjoy extracurricular activities and time with family and friends; (2) quizzes provide instantaneous feedback about learning for both students and the teacher, (3) quizzes are a more accurate reflection of learning than are daily assignments, (4) quizzes act as a helpful review of important information from the unit, (5) quizzes hold the student accountable for his or her own learning, (6) grading quizzes rather than daily work eliminates problems of missing work, late work, or copying from friends; (7) frequent quizzes increase student confidence and proficiency in studying notes, reviewing class work, and succeeding on tests.

**What if a student misses a quiz or test due to an absence?**

The lowest quiz grade will be dropped each quarter. If the student is missing a quiz at the end of the quarter due to absence, that quiz will be dropped and will not need to be made up unless the student misses two quizzes or more.

 If a student misses a test, the test must be made up as soon as possible. This is for the benefit of the student – students who wait too long to retake tests tend to do more poorly than if they retake them right away.

**How can parents make a difference?**

In 7th grade science, we will be doing a lot of projects that require community involvement. Students work harder and learn more when the work that they are doing is seen by actual audiences outside of the classroom. We may invite parents to come see work or participate in events or panel discussions during the year. This is important for the kids and will be vital to make learning real and authentic. Learning never occurs in a bubble – we want you to be part of it.

**Pacing for 7th Grade:**

Quarter 1: Cells, cell transport, cell division

Quarter 2: Photosynthesis and respiration; organ systems; genetics and heredity

Quarter 3: Finish genetics, rocks and minerals, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, mountain building, sea floor spreading

Quarter 4: Simple machines, Newton’s laws, distance/time/speed/velocity, Force/work, waves