

Mr. Zonca's Science Class

Welcome to Linden Middle School, Sixth Grade, and The Talented Talons Team. I hope that together we can make this transition to middle school smooth and enjoyable. I am excited with the prospect of teaching another year in this beautiful facility.

This year we will continue with an integrated study of science. We will study units in Physical and Earth Science trying to relate what we learn to our daily lives. Our primary source of information comes from the Glencoe Science textbooks, supplemented with materials gathered over the last thirty-six years. We read and discuss text materials together in class and incorporate "hands on" activities to reinforce studied concepts. There will be periodic quizzes and a test at the end of a unit to formally assess students' progress.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Students will be evaluated, both formally and informally, in a number of different ways. Their progress can be seen by accessing Parent Web. Final trimester grades are calculated by averaging tests, quizzes, lab activities and other assignments. Different weights are assigned to different categories as follows: 40% Tests and/or Projects, 25% Quizzes, 20% Labs or Activities and 15% Critical Thinking and Problem Solving. I normally do not offer extra credit assignments. I feel that if students keep up with their daily work, they won't require extra credit.

ASSIGNMENT COMPLETION

Your child may have assignments to finish two or three times a week. Even though we start many of these assignments in class, there may be times that extra time is needed. Homework is practice work. When we check this work students are able to judge whether they understand the concepts presented or not. Therefore, I expect "homework" to be completed by the due date. Failure to complete the work may adversely affect understanding of concepts that will appear on tests and quizzes.

Please encourage your child's use of the Student Agenda by checking it **DAILY**. You can access homework assignments on Parent Web. I also ask the students to get their planner signed every weekend. I have found that a behavior common to very successful students is the use of the agenda.

The textbook company offers the text and most supplementary material from the class on a CD. If you would like one for use at home please send me an email or note and I can check one out to you.

If you have questions regarding science class, feel free to call 591-0776 or email jzonca@lindenschools.org.

Thank you for your support.

Mr. J. Zonca



