7th Grade Science class **Course expectations**
Contact information: **Email: tgeorge@bownet.org**

Welcome to 7th grade science. In this course, you will be challenged to develop your own scientific questions about the world around you, conduct experiments, form conclusions based on the data collected, and evaluate scientific evidence.

Qualities that will make you successful in this class:

* An effective critical thinker
* An effective communicator
* A long-range planner
* An informed citizen
* A self directed learner
* A creative producer
* An effective collaborator
* A Positive risk taker (challenge self)
* A hard worker willing to persevere through challenging tasks.

The best way to reach me is through email (see above).

Grading policy Goals: Accurately assess students' understanding of curriculum by encouraging excellence and individual responsibility. The grading categories will be competencies.

1. Grading Breakdown
    a. Formative assessments: 35-45%
    b. Summative assessments: 55-65%
    c. Lab Safety 10% or less
2. Late work:
    a. homework
        i. 1 day late: 80%
        ii. 2 or more days late: 60%
    b. Projects or high point value assignments: 10%/day off up to 40%
3. Retakes: For Summative assessments only
    a. In order to redo a project/test/summative lab student will be expected to:
        i. Meet with the teacher within one week of the grade being posted.
        ii. The student must complete all teacher-required assignments before being allowed to do the retake. All deadlines must be met.
        iii. The teacher will assign a new and different Summative assessment.
        iv. The student will have one week from the date s/he was assigned the new project to complete and turn it in.
        v. Grade of the retake will be your grade.
        vi. Retakes are not designed to be common practice. If a student continually requests retakes, he or she will be required to meet with the teacher to determine why and to create a plan so to prevent the need for continued retakes. The teacher may deny further retakes in some circumstances.

CLASS Procedures:

1. Follow all safety procedures given (oral and written directives)!

2. Please leave the classroom only with permission.

3. Keep all class notes and handouts, as they prove helpful when studying for tests and quizzes, or analyzing lab questions.

4. If you have questions, please ask! Take ownership of your education! Remember, you are in control of your learning.

5. Homework:
    a. Collected at the beginning of the class in which it is due. After that time it is considered late.
        - At teacher discretion, extensions *may be* given if requests are made in advance of the due date or when extenuating circumstances exist.
        - Assignments designed to prepare students for a lab will not be accepted late. In this case, you will earn a zero, and I will work with you to give you the information required before you are allowed to participate in the lab. This will happen before you are allowed to participate in the lab.

6. Absences:
    a. If you are absent when an assignment is due, **it** must be turned in the day you return to school to be considered on time. Please place these in the turn in bin on the teachers desk with the date and time you turned it in.
    b. Complete missed assignments promptly. 1 day per day of absence + an additional day unless prior arrangements are made with your teacher. Please communicate with me if there are extenuating circumstances.
    c. Lab make-up must be done at the next study hall science lab when you return.

7. Though students may at times work together on homework, students should NOT produce identical work. This is plagiarism and you will receive a zero for the assignment.

8. All assignments should include your Name, G for George and period number.

9. Any assignments requiring calculations should include all your work with your answer including units.

10. Extra Help: Extra help will be provided in Breakfast Club and study hall or by appointment with your teacher. I am usually here by 7:30am, and will be glad to meet with you for extra help if you schedule an appointment.

11. Please don't use the pockets of your binder for papers. This typically causes disorganization and increases the time it takes you to find required paperwork. You will receive a blank table of contents and each handout will be assigned a number. You will be responsible for filling in the table of contents and placing the handout in the proper order.

12. Technology use:
    a. Google calendar: Homework posting
    b. Google Classroom: Homework, Tutorials, videos, google forms

Course overview: Competencies

Eye in the Sky:

1. Given a choice of materials, students will model the Earth-sun-moon system and use the model to demonstrate what causes lunar phases, eclipses, and seasons.
2. Given a scenario, students will describe the cycle of water as it travels through the Earth's systems and describe how it occurs.
3. Given more than one wave, students will explain the relationship between the amplitude and energy of the waves as well as describe how waves are reflected, absorbed or transmitted.
4.

Cells: One to Billions:

5. Given a choice of organisms, students will describe the cellular make up of the organism and the function of individual cells.
6. Given a scenario, students will describe how the chemical composition of food is changed as it moves through the body as well as its relationship to energy. Student will also explain the role of photosynthesis in the cycling of matter and energy.

Coded for Success:

7. Given a population of organisms, students will explain the probability of successful reproduction based on behavior and anatomy. Students will also describe how environmental and genetic factors affect the growth and success of the organism.

One Planet, One Experiment

8. Given a choice of natural resources, students will describe how natural resources impact society, how human use of those resources impacts the environment and apply methods of minimizing human impact.
9. Given a choice of materials, student will design, construct, and test a device that minimizes or maximizes thermal energy transfer. Students will then analyze data from tests to choose an optimal design using engineering practices.

7th Grade Science Suggested Supply list:

- Binder: Single subject, for notes and daily warm-up journals **or** loose paper.
- Writing utensils: Pencil will be required for all assignments unless state otherwise by teacher.
- Three ring binder: (1 ½")
- Graph paper
- Calculator (optional)
- Ruler for all graphing
- Flash drive

PARENTS & GUARDIANS:

Lets work together to make this year a successful one. Please feel free to email us with any questions or concerns. As we check email several times a day, this is the most expedient means to contact us, and we will make every effort to get back to you promptly.
After signing below, please return with your student by September 11th, 2015 Thank you!

SIGNATURES:

I have read and understand the requirements for 7th grade science (attached packet.)

Do you have a computer with reliable internet access at home? (circle) YES NO

Do you have a reliable printer at home? (circle) YES NO

Do you give permission for photographs of your son/daughter to be posted on the class web page? (circle) YES NO

Student's printed name: _____ Date: _____

Student's signature: _____ Date: _____

Guardian signature printed name: _____Date: _____

Parent's signature: _____Date: _____