



Union Grove Middle School 6th Grade Science

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Welcome to Union Grove – Home of the Grizzlies! I look forward to creating a hands-on classroom that is engaging, relative, and conducive to your child's learning in Science. I have high but reasonable expectations for every student in my class. We have the vital responsibility of encouraging and supporting your child. Together, we can help your student reach a high level of achievement by reinforcing his or her ability to complete the assigned tasks and to devote the adequate study time needed for tests, quizzes, and projects. As your child's teacher, I look forward to a relationship that will help your child meet his or her educational goals.

- I look forward to a great year! – Mr. G

Teacher:

Mr. Al Gonzalez

Email / Conference:

albert.gonzalez@killeenisd.org

Conferences: My conference time will be from 1:40–2:15 (During 7th Period).

Tutoring Times:

After School: Monday and Thursday from 3:35 to 4:15 (or before school upon request).

It is the responsibility of the parent and student to make sure tutoring opportunities are utilized and transportation is arranged.

Subjects of Study:

1st Nine Weeks

1. Lab Safety, Scientific Method, Lab Equipment, and Measurement
2. Physical Properties of Matter
3. Elements, Compounds, and Chemical Reactions

2nd Nine Weeks

1. Force and Motion
2. Energy Resources
3. Conservation of Energy

3rd Nine Weeks

1. Thermal Energy
2. Earth Materials
3. Plate Tectonics

4th Nine Weeks

1. Solar System
2. Taxonomic Groups
3. Ecosystems
4. Health / Worth the Wait (curriculum available for review)

My Website:

www.grizzlyscience.org - Check frequently for assignments, videos, pics, blogs, etc,

Instructional Strategies:

AVID methodologies including WICOR
Independent and guided instruction utilizing brain-based learning
Interactive Notebooks
Hands-on activities: model building, graphic organizers, journals, labs, projects, etc.
5e based instruction utilizing collaborative learning and the GRR model
Lead4Ward Strategies utilizing Peer tutoring and collaboration
Opportunities to work with technology (imovie, SmartBoard, PowerPoint, etc.)

Text:

McGraw-Hill 6th Grade iScience – Each student will be issued a consumable textbook (one that can be written in and does not have to be given back to the school at the end of the year). An online version will also be available. See my website for the link.

Materials / Supplies (as required by most classes):

- **2 - one subject Composition notebooks** – (one per semester)
- No. 2 Pencils – Regular or mechanical – **No pens** please.
- Colored markers, Colored pencils (at least 8 colors) and personal sharpener
- Liquid glue
- Small personal scissors, ruler, and large eraser (optional)
- Inexpensive personal calculator (optional) – or cell phone calculator

Students are requested to be prepared and bring their supplies everyday. Please check throughout the year to make sure your student has all of the requested supplies.

Policies / Procedures:

- Food, drinks, and gum chewing are not allowed in the classroom.
- Water in clear plastic bottles is allowed.
- Juice, tea, coffee, Gatorade, etc. – is **not** allowed.

Tests – Tests, quizzes, and projects will be assigned as assessments during and ending each nine-week period. A review will be given before each nine-week test.

Absences – If your child is absent, he or she is responsible for obtaining any missed assignments. An assignment bin or “turn-in box” will be present in class at all times and the students are responsible for turning in current and missing work to the bin. Information concerning assignments can also be found on my website - I will make every effort to create downloadable copies of the assignments. Projects or assignments due on the day of the absence will be due the day the student returns. Please check eSchoolPlus (Home Access Center) for current grades, and absences. Login information is on my website under “Resources”.

The students are expected to do their own work. Work will be turned in on time or will suffer point deductions. **Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in the student receiving a permanent “0” zero for the work.**

Make-Up Work – If a student is absent, he or she has five class days to complete the work without receiving a grading penalty. After five days, the work will be considered “Late”. Labs are subject to the five-day make-up period and must be completed during the hours offered for tutoring.

Late or Missing Work – Late or missing work will receive a 10 point per day deduction for up to five days (5 days late = 50 points off). If work is submitted after five days, the maximum grade awarded will be 50. Late or missing work must be completed within 10 days of the assigned due date.

On Time Work - Redo / Retake – Students who completed and submitted their work on time, are eligible to “Redo” failing work without attending mandatory tutoring and may re-submit the work for a maximum grade of 70. Summative tests may be taken again for a maximum grade of 70 using the following formula: (average of 1st and 2nd test). Daily work and tests must be completed within 10 days of the original due date.

Late Work - Redo – Students who submitted their work late may “Redo” the work for a maximum grade of 70. However, **the student must now complete a “Redo Request” form and must attend mandatory scheduled tutoring.** The work must be completed within 10 days of the turn-in date.

******Students who do not submit the work within the guidelines outlined above, will receive a permanent grade of “0” zero in the gradebook.*****

Homework – Homework reading assignments and/or questions may be assigned. If the student does not finish assigned class work, then that work will become homework and will be due at the beginning of class the following day - unless otherwise noted.

Cell Phone Usage – Cell phone usage is allowed before school, during lunch, and after school. **Otherwise, the phones are to be turned off.** It is at each teacher’s individual discretion as to when and how the phones will be used in the classroom. My policy is the following:

1st offense – I will politely ask the student to turn the phone off and put it away.

2nd offense – I will ask the student for the phone, conference with the student after school, and then return the phone to the student.

3rd offense – I will ask for the phone and will request the parent come to my room to pick up the phone.

After the 3rd offense – will result in parent conferences and or disciplinary action recommend by the school’s administration.

District Middle School Grading Policy:

Formative Grading: homework, class work, quizzes, and labs

Regular Classes = 45% of overall grade

Pre-AP/TAG Classes = 40% of overall grade

Summative Grading: unit exams, major projects, and 9-week exams

Regular Classes = 55% of overall grade

Pre-AP/TAG = 60% of overall grade

Semester averages are obtained by averaging the two nine-week grading periods.

Yearly averages are calculated by averaging the first and second semester.

Student Expectations / Rules

1. *Prompt:* Be in your assigned seat / area ready to work when entering the classroom.
2. *Prepared:* Bring binder and/or Science Journal, pencil, book, and other needed materials to class every day.
3. *Polite:* No profanity, rude, or inappropriate gestures, cruel teasing, harassment, or put downs in any language.
4. *Personal:* Keep hands, feet, and all objects to yourself.
5. *Productive:* Follow all faculty and staff directives as well as all Union Grove and KISD policies.

Parent Expectations

1. Encourage your student and support his or her academics.
2. Check the Home Access Center website (eSchoolPlus) regularly for information concerning attendance, assignments, grades, digital copies of handouts, etc.
3. Check my website www.grizzlyscience.org for assignments and other resources.
4. Communicate concerns and observations to me via email or conference.
5. Sign up for "Remind" – textual reminders that keep you in touch with my class.

Learning Choices / Consequences:

Failure to comply with expected classroom behaviors will result in the following actions:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Redirection (private conference with student)
3. Refocus utilizing a "Three Step-Form System" to include: parent notification, student being sent to the counselor's office for cooling off period, and/or additional lunch D-Hall.
4. Conference with student and parent upon receiving "Step 3"
5. Office referral and any additional steps stated in the Union Grove Middle School student handbook – Including In-School Suspension.

For more serious disruptions such as fighting, destruction of property, insubordination, and defiance; a referral will be written, and the student will be sent to the Assistant Principal's office.

Rewards:

1. Verbal Praise and Encouragement
2. Special Activities / Privileges
3. Recognition as "Student of the Month" on the Grizzly Science website
4. Positive Correspondence to Parent / Guardian
5. Recognition from Peers

Sincerely,

Mr. Al Gonzalez



**Union Grove Middle School
6th Grade Science**

Please sign and return this page to Mr. Gonzalez

Class Period : _____

E-Mail Address (very important) : -- _____
(Parents please print your email address as neat as possible)

What would you like me to know about your child? : _____

Phone Numbers - _____

Additional Comments / Concerns : _____

I have read Mr. Gonzalez's classroom expectations, behavior expectations, and consequences and have discussed this information with my child.

Parent / Guardian Signature

Student Signature

(Please sign the Lab Safety Contract on the back of this page. Students will not be allowed to participate in classroom labs until the teacher receives the signed contract.)

Science Laboratory Safety Contract

Union Grove Middle School 6th Grade Science

- I will act responsibly at all times in the laboratory.
- I will follow all instructions about laboratory procedures given by the teacher.
- I will keep my area clean in the laboratory.
- I will wear my safety goggles when instructed.
- I will wear protective clothing when necessary.
- I know where the fire extinguisher is located in the laboratory and have been trained on its use.
- I will immediately notify the teacher of any emergency.
- I know who to contact for help in an emergency.
- I will tie back long hair and remove jewelry while performing labs.
- I will never work alone in the laboratory.
- I will not take chemicals or equipment out of the lab without permission from the teacher.
- I will never eat or drink in the laboratory unless instructed to do so by the teacher.
- I will only handle living organisms or preserved specimens when authorized by the teacher.
- I will not enter or work in the storage/prep room unless supervised by a teacher.

I, _____ have read each of the statements in the **Science Safety Rules and Science Laboratory Safety Contract** and understand these safety rules. I agree to obey and follow the safety regulations and any additional written or verbal instructions provided by the school district or my teacher.

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____

(Please sign both sides of this page)