

Dripping Springs Middle School

6th Grade Science

Regular & Pre-AP

2013-2014

Science Teacher:

Jason LaMirand (Mr. L)

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Conference Period:

1:38-2:27(5th Period)

I am very excited to welcome you to my science class! Let me say how happy I am to have your child in my classroom this year. Middle school is an exciting time and is full of many new experiences. I feel privileged to be able to share that time with you and your student. I am looking forward to a fun and successful school year. I welcome and encourage parent-teacher and student-teacher communication.

It has been my past experience that communication via e-mail with parents is the swiftest method should you need to contact me. **Parents: Please make sure that your email address as well as your phone contact information is up-to-date in Skyward.** I will send many messages either through Skyward or from my teacher email as well as use Twitter for student and parent reminders. Please follow me on Twitter at **Jason LaMirand @LaMirandScience.** Also please visit my webpage frequently for class information regarding assignments, quizzes, tests, and projects.

Textbook:

Along with the new Science TEKS this year, we will also have new instructional materials. Students will be using an online textbook entitled McGraw-Hill Course 1. Students will receive their online access information including username and password during the first two weeks of school. A link for accessing the online textbook can also be found on my website. Students will be able to access the online textbook through the Internet on any device or using the textbook APP on their mobile device. Any student who is unable to access their online textbook from home will be able to do so at school. My classroom is available during morning tutorials as well as the CLI (Center for Learning and

Innovation). Students taking study hall should also have access to technology devices as well.

Science

Notebook:

The science notebook will be a very valuable study tool for unit exams, CBA's, semester exams. Each nine weeks students will be given quizzes over information within the science notebook.

It is critical that students keep up with their notebook because they will be allowed to use their interactive notebooks during the notebook quizzes. It

is strongly encouraged that students keep their science notebooks through middle school. **Students will need to make sure they have a marble composition book to use for their notebook by Monday, September 1st.** Students may need to purchase a second composition book in the second semester if they run out of room in the first one. Students will also need glue throughout the year in order to glue things into their books.

Science Info:

Information regarding homework, projects, quizzes and tests will be posted on Mr. L's website each week. Mr. L will also make an effort to send an email each time the website is updated with important info. Parents and students may view my webpage for information about homework and what was missed during an absence as well.

Overview:

Below are the units of study that all 6th graders will have this year in science. However, the differentiation between regular science, Pre-AP and GT Pre-AP science will be through the method of delivery and/or acquisition of the curriculum content, the pace and extension of the content and through the differentiation of the student products that will be expected. GT science students will be required to participate in the DSMS Science Fair. All other students may participate in the fair for extra credit.

- Scientific Method
- Chemistry & Matter
- Energy
- Force & Motion
- Earth's Structure & Rocks
- Solar System
- Space Exploration
- Interactions of Life

Grade Policy:

70% Summative – TESTS, QUIZZES & LABS/ACTIVITIES

30% Formative – POP QUIZZES & DAILY WORK/HOMEWORK

For summative assignments, typically weighted as follows: CBA's (weighted 1 time), unit tests (2 times), experimental labs/investigations (1 or 2 times), quizzes and descriptive or comparative labs/investigations (1 time). Prior to any of these assignments, students will be informed of the weighting.

CBA's 2 & 4 will be the fall and spring semester exams. They will count as 10% of each semester grade.

Campus Policy for Correcting Assignments / Retesting Policy:

Formative Work (daily/homework): Students have no opportunity to correct for a higher grade.

Summative – Quizzes and Tests: Students have the opportunity to correct and retest for a grade of 70.

Summative – Projects, Presentations, Final Products or Final Exams: Students have no opportunity to correct and retest/resubmit for a grade.

Assignment

Log: Assignment logs/planners are recommended for each student to track assignments and projects. Assignment books/planners are available in the Counselor's Office for \$4.00.

Homework: Most work is done in the classroom. However, if not finished, the student will need to complete the assignment in study hall or at home as well as study for quizzes and tests on a daily basis.

Late Work: Formative–Students have a two day window to turn in late work for a maximum grade of 70. A zero will be recorded in Skyward for assignments that are late and then changed once the assignment is turned in. After the two day window, the grade will be left a zero if not turned in.

Summative–Students have a one day window to turn in late work for a maximum grade of 70. After the one day window, the grade will be a zero.

Please use Skyward **REGULARLY** to help you monitor your student's

work habits and grades. An asterisk **DOES NOT** indicate that your child has a late assignment. In my class, it just means that I have entered the title of the assignment in my grade book and I am in the process of entering the grades for my various classes, or your child may have been absent for an assignment that he/she hasn't made up yet. If you see the asterisk for an extended period of time then you may want to ask your child if he/she has turned in all make-up work. If you see a zero in Skyward, please have your child get the work completed and turned in ASAP.

Make Up Work for Absences:

For an excused absence, the student is to be given a reasonable amount of time to make up the work missed, one day for each day absent.

Work assigned prior to the first day of absence is due the day the student returns to class. It is best to email me the day your child is absent so that your child is not overwhelmed and overloaded with schoolwork once he/she returns to school. I can tell you what your child is missing and send you assignments via email or direct you to my website where I will have everything updated. If you don't send me an email then please remind your child to come ask me for work missed when she/he returns or visit my webpage and to make up any work missed. Please encourage your child to ask questions or receive help from Mrs. Lester or Mrs. Payne if I am not available during tutorials.

Projects: We will do several projects this year, but many of them will be electronic. Please rest assured that deadlines are published well in advance and grading criteria will be provided. Students are given a portion of class time to work on the project throughout the project timeline. This allows teachers the opportunity to monitor, assist and answer any questions a student may have.

Tutorials: We encourage all students to attend tutorials. This time can be used for review, answering questions or making up tests, quizzes and labs. A science teacher will be available for student assistance every day before school. **Mr. L will be available in room on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.** All sixth grade science students will study the same material at the same time.

Classroom Discipline: The DSMS campus-wide discipline plan is based on the 5 P's:

Prompt: in class and working when the bell rings.

Prepared: having all needed materials when class begins.

Polite: interacting with others in a respectful manner.

Positive: having an attitude and behavior that is helpful and encouraging.

Productive: doing their best work in all situations.

The teacher will notify parents if a problem persists.

Supplies: Students are expected to bring necessary supplies to science class everyday including science notebook, notebook paper, glue sticks, writing utensils, and an electronic device if possible.

Meet The Teacher Night
Thursday, September 4TH
7:00PM