**Science Course Expectations**

**Mrs. Hofacker 2016-2017**

**Dear Parent/Guardian**:

Welcome! Life Science is the foundation of the biological sciences. This year we will investigate and study the different types of cells, classification of living organisms, heredity, ecology and the Chesapeake Bay. Laboratory investigations and activities are the primary means for developing problem-solving skills and for understanding scientific concepts and principles. Advanced science students will also explore weather, climate, and the Earth’s atmosphere.

**Procedures:**

* When students enter the classroom, they should sharpen their pencils if needed, then be seated.
* Students will come to class prepared with materials needed for daily activities (notebook, planner, pencil).
* Students will then write down homework in their planners and then begin warm up.
* Students will be respectful of on another and the teachers at all times.
* Students will be responsible for their actions and should expect appropriate consequences.

**Evaluation:**

* Various assessments will be given throughout the year. Your student will be evaluated by problem based assessment, projects, tests, quizzes, lab reports, and notebook organization.
* Problem based assessment, project and tests are worth 2x total points earned. Class work, lab reports, notebook organization, and all other assignments are worth 1x total points earned.
* Grades are determined based upon a body of evidence that demonstrates student mastery toward pre-determined standards of learning. A student can't properly be assessed when assignments are missing nor can they be successful on quizzes and tests without practice.  If a student does not turn in an assignment, every effort will be made to have the student complete it. After several attempts to get the assignment, an Academic Detention (held after school) may be assigned.

\*Student grades are available via Parent Portal on school net. If you have not registered for Parent Portal, you may do so through the guidance office.

**VBCPS Grading Scale:**

A 93 - 100 B+ 87 - 89 C+ 77 - 79 D+ 67 - 69

1. 90 - 92 B 83 - 86 C 73 - 76 D 64 - 66

B- 80 - 82 C- 70 - 72 E below 64

**Student Conduct**

* Classroom and school rules will be in effect at all times. Actions that interfere with teaching and learning will not be tolerated.
* All policies in the Student Code of Conduct will be strictly enforced in the classroom and by the grade level administrator.

**VBCPS Student Code of Conduct:** Can be found at the following web site

<http://www.vbschools.com/students/conduct/content/pdfs/CodeStudentConduct.pdf>

**Homework / Makeup work:**

* If your child is absent or has any questions about the daily lesson, your student can access all class materials through our google classroom site.
* Parents please provide your email address on the form provided and you will be added to our google classroom site.
* Students are expected to make up any missed test, quizzes and class work upon their return to school. Make up work is due the next block. Special circumstances will be taken into consideration and must be discussed with me.
* Homework must be written in the planner daily and may be assigned up to five nights a week. Homework is to be completed on the night assigned and submitted at the beginning of class the next block unless otherwise noted by the teacher.
* Homework Help can be accessed through the following website:

<https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/libraries/kids/Pages/homework-resources.aspx>. This is a service available to students to receive help from certified state teachers.  Sat  9 a.m. – 3 p.m., M-Th 3 p.m. – 9 p.m.

**VBCPS Attendance Policy/Tardy Policy:** Can be found at the following web site <http://www.vbschools.com/policies/5-17_1r.asp> . Students are to be in their seats and ready to work when class begins. If they are habitually late to class without a signed pass from faculty or staff, I will remedy the situation by assigning detention and notifying you about their repeated tardiness. After that, continued tardiness will result in a referral to the administrator.

**Supplies:**

* 3 ringed binder
* Loose leaf paper
* 4 dividers
* glue sticks
* pencils
* colored pencils.
* Students are required to wear Chemical Splash Safety goggles to protect their eyes during labs that involve chemicals, heat, or glassware. When purchasing googles look for ANSI-Z87.1-2003 code to ensure they are the correct type. Home Depot and Lowe’s are two possible places where they can be purchased for under $3.

If you should have any questions or concerns during the school year, please feel free to e-mail me at [gina.hofacker@vbschools.com](mailto:gina.hofacker@vbschools.com).

We are going to have an amazing year! Please sign and return the attached sheet. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hofacker

Student’s Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Home phone number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please sign and return this portion of the letter.

*I have read Mrs. Hofacker’s Course Expectations*

*I have read the Science Lab Safety Contract*

Student’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone number\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Email address:

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Any concerns I should be aware of? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

May I contact you via email concerning your child? Yes No

Do you have internet access at home? Yes No

Do you have printing capabilities at home? Yes No