

Nov. 15, 2017

Greetings Middle School Parents,

This is a preview of what we are doing in Middle School Science.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are now studying Unit 2 (Rocks and Minerals). They are tentatively scheduled to have a Ch. 4 test on Nov. 30 (Thursday). After this chapter, we will begin Unit 3 which is about Plate Tectonics, Volcanoes and Earthquakes. We will complete this unit towards the end of January.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

We are currently studying Unit 2 (Cells). We will have a Ch. 5 test on Nov. 28 (Tuesday). We will then proceed to Unit 3 which is about heredity and genetics. This unit will take us from the end of November to mid January of next year.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

We just started Unit 4 (The Atom). The test for Ch. 12 is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 28 (Tuesday). We will then complete one chapter studying the Periodic Table. I will have them memorize around 60 common chemical symbols for elements on the Periodic Table. This will lead us right into Unit 5 which comprises of 3 chapters of inorganic chemistry. They will learn about different types of chemical reactions, ionic and covalent bonding, and how to balance simple chemical reactions. This unit will help prepare the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class for the first semester of high school chemistry.

6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Grades:

I am in the process of setting up field trips to Chabot Space and Science Center next year. When these dates are confirmed, I will let you parents know of the date and time. I can take up to 9 Parent-Volunteers for each trip.

The Science Fair Projects are coming along well. A majority of the students are keeping up with the timetable that I set up in September. I did cancel the additional 2 bibliographic references due on Nov. 16. I replaced that assignment by having all students correct their bibliographies in accordance to St. Joseph standards and resubmitting that work due November 16. Students should now start gathering whatever materials they may need to start conducting their experiments.

Please make sure your child monitors Powerschool for grades and assignments. If they find any discrepancies, it is up to them to bring it to my attention. I will then update Powerschool with that additional information.

If your child is having difficulty in science class, I am available after school every Thursday for study hall.

If any parents or students have questions, please email me at raikawa @ csdo.org. I will get back to you either that day or the next day at the very latest. I wish all of you and your families a great Thanksgiving.

Best Wishes,

Randy Aikawa