



Welcome to
Mrs. Wittenberg's
sixth grade science class

The kids are off to a GREAT start!

(A copy of this presentation is available on my teacher web page. Go to the district page, then click on the "Parents" tab, then select "Staff Directory")

Our Mission

- o To develop successful study habits
- o To implement the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Science (formerly the Next Generation Science Standards)
- o To develop independent, 21st century learners.
- o To foster curiosity and critical thinking.
- o To meet the needs of a diverse group of learners.

How is science education changing with the new Science Standards?

Science education will involve less:

1. Learning of ideas disconnected from questions about phenomena
2. Teachers providing information to the whole class
3. Teachers posing questions with only one right answer
4. Student reading textbooks and answering questions at the end of each chapter
5. Worksheets
6. Oversimplification of activities for students who are perceived to be “less able” to do science and engineering

Science education will involve more:

1. Systems thinking and modeling to explain phenomena and to give a context for the ideas to be learned
2. Students conducting investigations, solving problems, and engaging in discussions with teacher guidance
3. Students discussing open-ended questions that focus on the strength of the evidence used to generate claims
4. Students reading multiple sources and developing summaries of information
5. Student writing of journals, reports, posters, and media presentations that offer explanations and arguments
6. Provision of supports so that *all* students can engage in sophisticated science and engineering practices

Our Curriculum

- Scientific Practices – includes skills necessary to be successful in science
- Space Systems – includes Earth's place in the Universe
- Weather and Climate – includes Earth's water and atmosphere
- Earth's Systems - includes Earth's surface and the history of Earth
- Stability and Change - includes distribution of Earth's resources and how humans impact the Earth.

New This Year at Markham

- o Homework completion will be recorded, but will not be factored into the student's report card grade.
- o There is no "extra credit".
- o We are following a modified block schedule. Students alternate between science and social studies on odd and even days.
- o Students have science for 80 minutes three times per cycle (instead of 45 minutes 6 times).

Grading

In this class, student grades are based on:

- ✓ 35% - formative assessments (warm ups, quizzes, notebook questions)
- ✓ 35% - summative assessments (tests and projects)
- ✓ 30% - graded assignments

Grading

- o All grades are maintained on the Genesis portal.
- o Because progress reports and report cards are not sent home, we are counting on parents to regularly check the portal to remain apprised of a student's progress.
- o If you need login information, please contact Rachel Hamm in the main office.

Grading

Genesis WEBSITE: <http://littlesilverschools.org> | EMAIL: jlyons@littlesilver.k12.nj.us or jford@littlesilver.k12.nj.us | HELP DESK: MPS ext 3030 PRS ext 1221

Little Silver School District
Parent Access

User Name:

Password:

Login [Forgot My Password](#)

Welcome to the Little Silver Schools' Genesis Parents Portal. If you need help with logging in please do not select "FORGOT PASSWORD" but instead email or call Judy Lyons for Markham and Julie Ford for Point Road. Please remember to use all lowercase letters when you log in!

Windows taskbar: Ask me anything, Edge, Mail, Photos, Chrome, OneNote, Camera, PowerPoint, System tray: 2:50 PM, 9/14/2016

Homework

- o Homework **MUST** be written in the planner, no exceptions.
- o Each time homework is assigned, students are prompted by the “Do Now” to copy it into their planners.
- o Use the website as a back-up
- o Work is not provided in advance for students who miss school for a vacation. Please remind your child to see his/her teachers for missed work.

Missed Homework Policy

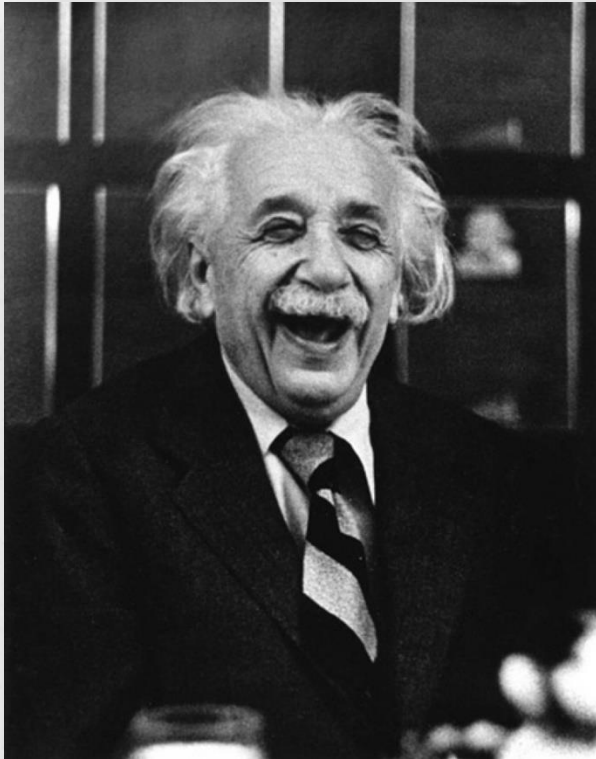
6th grade policy for UNEXECUSED missed homework:

- o Stay after school to make up the missed assignment on the day it is missed.
- o Central detentions are assigned to students who habitually miss homework.

In addition, for science class:

- o Missed assignment slip sent home

Resources



Whoo Hoo!
We are excited
to announce
that we are
using some
new resources
this year!

Resources

- o HMH Dimensions is an online resources that includes a student text, digital lessons, virtual labs, and more.
- o Each student will be given information that explains how to access the site, including login information. The login information will also recorded on a sheet in the back of their planner.
- o We are piloting a digital interactive notebook this year that is housed in the Google Classroom. Ask your child to show it to you!

How can you reach me?

The best way to reach me is by email:

swittenberg@littlesilverschools.org

There is no way to call a teacher's classroom directly. If you need to leave a voice mail, please dial the school # 732-741-7112, then extension 3624.

That's all we have time for tonight.
Thanks for coming!

