Welcome to 7th Grade Science!
2015-2016

Your Teacher: Ms. Dionne. The best way for your family to get in touch with me is via email: tdionne@brunswick.k12.me.us

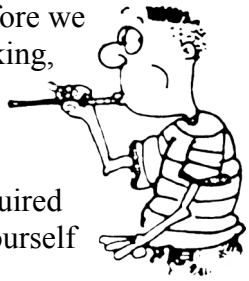
I also have a website, where I post daily homework assignments, mini-summaries of class, announcements and reminders. www.brunswick.k12.me.us/tdionne

You will need for class every day:
A spiral notebook just for science, or paper clipped into a binder in a section labeled "science"
Your science folder (the kind with 2 pockets that opens up flat)
Your charged laptop, once you receive it
Writing utensils, including a highlighter
Your assignment notebook
Your brain

The Rules:

1. **Respect others and their right to learn.** This means: we do not talk behind others' backs or put each other down. We use respectful body language. We work politely with any and all other students. We do not **interrupt** or **distract** others with words or actions. We do not **get up** out of our seats while someone is talking to the whole class.

2. **Respect materials. No fooling around.** This means: we leave other people's stuff alone. We don't waste supplies or use them in inappropriate ways. We don't throw anything. We clean up before we leave. Be careful where you put your arms and legs, and no wrestling, punching, kicking, poking, shoving, etc. in the lab. Save those things for long car rides with your family.



3. **Respect yourself and your learning**. This means: be prepared for class (bring all your required materials) and be on-task during class (don't waste your learning opportunities). Don't call yourself "stupid". If you have made it to the 7th grade, you are totally capable of doing 7th grade work.

4. **Follow directions quickly,** and the first time I give them!

5. **Keep your teacher happy.** I'm happy when all my students are learning and enjoying science class. I'm not happy when someone makes it difficult for others or themselves to learn.

Consequences for not following rules:
These depend on the nature and seriousness of the infraction. Possible consequences may include a lunch detention, a time out and parent notification, Peer-to Peer Rubric consequences, office detention, and/or other "natural consequence".

Consequences for following rules:
A calm and pleasant classroom with a relaxed teacher and students
Trusted with more complex (and fun) materials and supplies
Trusted with more independence

To avoid negative consequences:
- Behave.
- If you feel yourself getting out of control, ask me if you can move to the quiet desk, or if you can take 2 minutes in the hallway to regain control. I'm pretty reasonable about this.
- Sometimes **I** will ask **you** to move your seat. This isn't a punishment; it's a way that I give you an opportunity to collect yourself before you get into trouble.

General Classroom Procedures:

a. Entering and leaving class:

When you enter the room, go straight to your seat and sit down. Once there, (1) fill out your assignment notebook, then (2) read the warm-up on the overhead and follow the directions. Don't wait for the bell to ring to do these things.

At the end of class, the teacher dismisses you, not the bell. Push your chair in when you go.

b. When you return from being absent, go to the folder on the back table labeled "ABSENT Folder". Inside, you will find a separate slip and/or packet for each day you have missed. Your slips will have with your name on them.

c. We are all doing science for the whole period. If you finish something earlier than others, let me know and we will get you going on what's next.

d. Ask for help when you need it. I am available most days before and after school, during most study halls, and at lunchtime. It's part of your job to come to me if there's something you are struggling with. Needing to ask doesn't make you "stupid".

e. Ask for help when you need it. I really really mean it.

f. Please keep **all** of your work. Do not throw anything away until we have a folder clean-out together in class! **Do not let your grownups "help you" throw things away.** If your grownups would like to be involved, they can help you organize the things in your folder by date – but don't get rid of any of them!

g. Good times to sharpen your pencil, throw something away, fill your water bottle, get something from the student supplies, come to me with your pass filled out for a good reason, use the stapler, etc, are: before the bell rings to start class, transitions, or independent work time. You do not need to ask permission to do these things during these times. Do **NOT** do these things while someone is speaking to the whole class.

h. Homework is due at the beginning of class. If you have been absent, please write "ABSENT" at the top when you turn it in, so I will not take off points for lateness.

Grading:
- **Big assessments** (tests, projects, lab reports, etc.) count as 80% of your total grade. All big assessments count the same (i.e. tests are not "worth more" than projects).

"Re-takes" or "revisions" may sometimes be offered at my discretion. If offered, you must have showed a sincere effort the first time around (filled out your study guide on time, met deadlines, etc.) in order to be eligible. You may earn up to a B (85%) on a re-take. The higher of your two grades will be kept (no averaging). You must complete a re-take within one week of the assessment's return.

- **Small assessments** (quizzes,warm-ups, homeworks, etc.) count as 20% of your total grade.

Most small assessments will be graded on a scale of 1 to 10. For each class period a small assessment is late, your maximum possible grade will go down one point on the scale (unless you have been out sick and you wrote "Absent" at the top of the assignment).

- Ready for a little something more? Find information about **Challenges** in the Challenges box. You must be caught up in your work, and passing the class, in order to take on a Challenge. Other conditions apply; see the Challenge handout for details.

- **Is there "Extra credit"?** Nope. If you are not caught up, or not doing well grade-wise, you need to spend more time on your regular classwork, not add on extra work on top of that. Come on in and see me for help!

Topics for this year:

Metrics and the scientific method	Motion, energy and forces
Electricity and magnetism	Wave energy
Heat energy	Compounds, mixtures and solutions
DNA and genetics	Natural selection and evolution