

Green Brook Middle School

<p>POR Science Mrs. Kimberly O'Connor</p>
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Course Description:

We will explore topics in Life and Physical Science. The first portion of the year we will explore the make-up of matter and how matter interacts with other matter. We will then explore how energy is transferred from place to place in the form of waves and fields. The second portion of the year focuses on how living and non-living aspects of our planet interact and rely upon each other and learn ways we can live more sustainably. We will also improve essential skills such as informational reading comprehension, summarization, note taking and study skills and strategies that can be used across all subject areas.

Course Expectations:

- o Be on time. When the second bell rings, you should be in your seat beginning the warm-up activity given by the teacher.
- o Be respectful to your peers, teachers, and classroom
- o Be prepared with your assignments and materials
- o Be responsible for yourself and your work. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check the "While You Were Out" station and check with the teacher for any work that you have missed.
- o Be positive and open-minded

Our class will be utilizing two behavior systems throughout the school year – an independent behavior plan called "Free Friday" and a whole class behavior plan called "Noise."

Free Friday – Each student has the words "Free Friday" displayed on his/her desk. This is a self-monitoring system where students will reflect upon their behaviors on a daily basis during class time. If the student keeps all 10 letters throughout the week, h/she earns 20 minutes of free choice Friday activities which include educational games on the Chromebook, board/card games, free reading/writing time or free creative thinking time (art activities). Should a student exhibit difficult behaviors throughout his/her assignments or classwork, h/she will reflect upon those behaviors with me and a letter is lost from "Free Friday." For every letter lost, the student will lose 2 minutes from their free choice Friday activities.

- **Level 1 Behaviors & Consequences:**

- o **Behaviors-** Excessive talking, disruptions, missing work, uncooperative, lying, cheating and horseplay

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- **Consequences-**
 - 1st – Verbal Warning and Reminder
 - 2nd – Loss of letter from “Free Friday”
 - 3rd – Parent Contact via note, email or phone call
 - 4th – Discipline Report to the Office/Principal
- **Level 2 Behaviors & Consequences:**
 - **Behaviors-** Bullying, Harassment, Defiance, Dangerous Horseplay, Chronic Level 1 Behaviors
 - **Consequences-**
 - 1st – Loss of letter from “Free Friday”
 - 2nd - Parent contact via note, email or phone call
 - 3rd - Discipline Report to the Office/Principal
- **Level 3 Behaviors & Consequences:**
 - **Behaviors-** Fighting, Vandalism, Theft, Chronic Level 2 Behaviors
 - **Consequences-**
 - Automatic Discipline Report to the Office/Principal

Rewards: Positive notes, emails and/or phone calls home, Free Friday time

NOISE – The letters “N O I S E” are displayed on the whiteboard. Each day, the class begins with all five letters. Should majority of the students engage in level 1 behaviors, as indicated above, letters begin to be subtracted from the word. If the difficult behaviors continue throughout the day and the class loses the letter “O”, the students will be assigned an additional assignment to complete at home that evening and to be returned to school the following day. If all 5 letters are lost, the disruptive students will receive a teacher detention at a determined time.

Contact Information:

Mrs. Kimberly O’Connor

koconnor@gbtps.org

(732) 968-1051

Grading Plan:

Students will be assessed with grades reflecting scores throughout the marking period on extension and process, short summatives and long summatives. Tests & Projects (in-class

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projects) make up 60% of students' grade. Quizzes will be worth 20% of their grade, and the remaining 20% will consist of various classwork assignments and activities & homework.