

MRS. REMIS' – "HELPFUL HINTS FOR SCIENCE CLASS SUCCESS"

Think as a scientist... Record as a scientist... Reflect as a scientist!

WELCOME to your **5th GRADE SCIENCE CLASS**. I hope that you will enjoy the exciting adventure you will be apart of this year. In order to insure that our classroom runs as smoothly as possible, I would like to introduce you to our classroom procedures.

EDMODO

- ❖ **What is Edmodo?** is an educational website that takes the ideas of a social network and refines them and makes it appropriate for a classroom. Using **Edmodo**, students and teachers can reach out to one another and connect by sharing ideas, problems, and helpful tips.
 - For our Class, it will host all Class curriculum/information & our calendar: *Assignments, Science Unit Information, SN (Science News = Current Science Events), Video Clips, Vocabulary, Reviews, Tools, etc ...*
- ❖ **Why use EDMODO?** EDMODO is primarily our **Curriculum/Book** for the year. The Posts will have the necessary information just like a textbook, but more important it will host the **most current science information in multiple formats**.
- ❖ **Is EDMODO safe for my child to use?** YES, it is a closed online classroom.
- ❖ **How do I get my work if I am absent?** If you are **absent** you can keep up by checking the EDMODO posts or calendar.
- ❖ **How do you access EDMODO?** In the URL location, type in – www.edmodo.com
- ❖ **How often should my child check EDMODO?** Your child will need to check EDMODO **daily!!!** Assignments & important information will be 'Posted'. (you can access EDMODO on a computer, tablet or smartphone for on-the-go learning)
 - (We will learn how to use EDMODO in class; practicing with hands-on examples & videos)
- ❖ **How do Parents access EDMODO?** see attached handouts for Instructions & Parent Permission Slip
- ❖ Remember, it is a privilege to use technology you must practice appropriate digital citizenship!

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP & TECHNOLOGY

"The only way tomorrow 's problems can be solved today is by getting today's students ready to face them."

- ❖ **What is digital citizenship?** Digital Citizenship can be defined as the norms of appropriate, responsible behavior with regard to technology use.
- ❖ **Who is a digital citizen? You!** Basically, a Digital Citizen is anyone who uses digital tools such as computers, cell phones, or the internet in their work, school or for recreation. Just like citizens of a city have to adopt rules and standards of behavior in order to live together, those of us in the digital world should do the same.
- ❖ We will use a Digital Citizenship plan to conduct all of our technology activities in accordance to Diocesan Policy. It is a privilege to learn using technology, Digital Citizenship will be enforced fully.
- ❖ **Why use technology in the classroom?** **"Ed Tech: It isn't optional; it's essential."**
 - Technology helps prepare you for the real world environment. As our society becomes increasingly more technology-dependent, it becomes even more necessary that you become a successful Digital Citizen, you must learn to be tech-savvy.
 - Technology-integrated materials when used appropriately can enhance science teaching and learning.
 - Science & Technology bring the most current science into the classroom.
 - Remember, It is a privilege to use technology; you must practice appropriate Digital Citizenship.

Where can I access technology for class? You can use your home computer, smart phone, tablet, school laptop before or after school by appointment; Moberly Public Library – 111 N 4th St

REMIND 101

REMIND 101 is a communication tool that provides a safe way for Mrs. Remis to *text message and/or email* Parents about our Science Class happenings. **Remind 101** is a notification tool for class information such as: *new projects, quizzes, tests, etc...* It **is not** for daily assignments this information can be found on EDMODO Posts, Calendar or the student planner.

- ❖ **How much does it cost?** Free.
- ❖ **How does the Parent setup this tool?** Please follow attached **Activation Instructions** exactly. You can choose to have class information sent to you by text, email or both.
 - Please activate **REMIND 101** within the first week of school so you will know all current class information
- ❖ **Who can see my cell number?** I or any other Parent *cannot* see your cell number and you do not have access to my cell number. This tool is for delivery of messages by the Teacher to the Parent, **One-way-communication only!** (see handout for Instructions)

VOCABULARY

Science, like other disciplines, has a specialized **Vocabulary**, encompassing both terms that represent scientific concepts and those that describe process skills. At this level of science a strong understanding of **science vocabulary** is a must.

- ❖ **Where does the Student find Vocabulary Terms & Definitions?** Vocabulary will be posted on EDMODO for each unit. Terms will be posted with a due date to be checked in class, traditionally within 3 – 5 days.
 - Your child is responsible to write each **Vocabulary Term** on a 3x5 card and the **definition** on the other side..
 - I will post links for **science sites** for your child to use for the term definitions. A regular dictionary will not completely define the word in science concepts.
- ❖ **When does the Student work on Vocabulary Terms?** If scheduling allows, Students may have time in class; But ultimately, it is a home assignment.
- ❖ **Where does the Student store their Vocabulary terms?** I will give each Student a zip-lock baggie to store term cards. Students must keep the baggie in their science notebook. We use the cards during class for reference or will review them with a partner.
- ❖ **Do Students receive points for Vocabulary Term Cards?** Yes, points will be given for all terms completed & neat. Students may write or type out definitions and paste to cards. **NO** partial credit given.
- ❖ **How do Students study Vocabulary Terms?** **REVIEW, REVIEW, REVIEW!** Terms must be reviewed daily. That is why we put them on cards so they can travel to after school activities in the car. It should only take 5 – 10 minutes to review cards daily. Also, we use the *terms* in our class discussions as part of our regular science jargon.
- ❖ **Do Students test over Vocabulary Terms?** Yes, I will give students plenty of notice before a the quiz.

SCIENCE NEWS (SN) – Current Science Events/News helps Students connect classroom science concepts to real-life science affecting their lives.

- ❖ **What is SN?** **SCIENCE NEWS** = '**SN**' current science information/events presented at the start of class by many different formats: *Vidcast, Podcast, or a short Article on a current science event.*
- ❖ **Why do SNs?** **SNs** are considered your *current events*.
- ❖ **How do I write up SN?** You will learn how to summarize information by taking notes in organized, neat & detailed paragraphs or bullets, addressing the information using the the **5 W's & H**. (we will have a practice example in class to help you learn how to complete this activity)
 - Information points must be in your own words.
- ❖ **When are SNs done?** Most classes will begin with a **SN** daily, with the exceptions of Project Days, Labs, & Quiz/Test days.

- Student will come into class sit down, have a writing utensil & your *Interactive Science Notebook* opened to the **SN** tab.
- ❖ **What happens if I do not get all the information completed?** The **SNs** will be posted on EDMODO so you can review them & add to your notebook.
 - **Remember:** SNs are worth *valuable points*, must be detailed, neat & organized.
- ❖ **When are the SNs due?** **SNs** are due the next week on the following Friday.
 - Ex: SNs from the week of September 8 – 12 will be due September 19.
- ❖ **Are SNs a group effort?** **NO!** **SNs** are done individually. Do not share your information.
- ❖ **Instructions on – where to write information, how to set up information, headings, etc . . .** will be posted on the whiteboard (follow instructions very carefully, they may be different daily).

PROJECT BASED LEARNING

Project Based Learning is an instructional approach built upon authentic learning activities that engage Student interest and motivation. These activities are designed to answer a question or solve a problem and generally reflect the types of learning and work people do in the everyday world outside the classroom.

Project Based Learning is synonymous with learning in depth. A well-designed project provokes Students to encounter (and "*struggle*" with) the central concepts and principles of a discipline.

- ❖ **Why do Project Based Learning?** Necessary skills are taught to be a successful 21st Century Learner.
 - Skills taught are *communication and presentation skills, organization and time management skills, research and inquiry skills, self-assessment and reflection skills, and group participation and leadership skills.*
- ❖ **Who does the Project?** *Project Based Learning* is generally done by groups of Students working together toward a common goal.
 - We will have the opportunity to have several individual projects.
- ❖ **How am I scored for the Project?** The Student's performance is assessed on an individual basis, & takes into account the quality of the product produced, the depth of content understanding demonstrated, and the contributions made to the group dynamic.
 - You are **not** responsible for other group members' work.
 - Presentations will be delivered using professional skills (we will practice these skills in class)
- ❖ **How do I set up a project?** All **Projects** will have a ***syllabus, rubric and parent information letter***
 - Class projects will have multiple check-in-dates & a final due date.

CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS

Classroom Discussions allow Students to exchange ideas, work toward conclusions, and mastery understanding of concepts. It is through *discussion* that students often gain interest in the material, correct their misconceptions and analyze information critically.

- ❖ **What is the difference between CLASS DISCUSSIONS vs. LECTURING?** **CLASS DISCUSSIONS** are student-centered & active, and the Teacher acts as a facilitator for the learning. Whereas, Lectures are Teacher centered and the Student has a more passive learning style.
- ❖ **How do I participate in CLASS DISCUSSIONS?** Prepare for class by reading or watching vidcasts, taking notes and developing questions or points to share during discussions.
- ❖ **What if I'm not called on during DISCUSSIONS?** I keep track of who participates or raises their hand during CLASS DISCUSSIONS.
- ❖ **I'm uncomfortable speaking in class, what should I do?** Our class will be encouraging to those students who are uncomfortable speaking out. We value everyone's opinion or thoughts during the discussions. Speaking in front of others is a life skill you will use everyday.
 - Prepare with a few key points to share!!!
- ❖ **Remember,**

- Participating in **DISCUSSIONS** helps you check your understanding of the material.
- ❖ You will *earn valuable points* for class participation.

SCIENCE NOTEBOOK

Our Science Notebook will be used to assist Students to develop, practice, and refine their science understanding, while also enhancing reading, writing, and communications.

- ❖ You will learn to think like a scientist!
- ❖ You will learn to take & organize notes that are personal and meaningful to understanding the information.
- ❖ You will learn to distinguish between what you know and what you need to focus on.
- ❖ You will use colorful illustrations to make sense of the topic.
- ❖ The NOTEBOOK is worth *valuable points*, must be kept neat, organized & accessible.

EXTRA CREDIT

- ❖ I **do not** give extra credit. Take the time to do your work correctly the first time. You have all the tools for success. **Please do not ask for Extra Credit!!!**
- ❖ I may give bonus questions on quizzes.

ASSIGNMENTS & PROJECTS

- ❖ **Neatness** is a requirement for all Assignments & Projects! There is **NO** exception to this expectation. **I will not grade assignments that I cannot read, or that are torn or crumpled!!!**
- ❖ Neat handwriting is a must for all science materials!
- ❖ All Assignments & Homework must be turned in by the due date.
- ❖ You will be allowed to use "LATE ASSIGNMENT PASS" for one day late daily assignment (see handout – Late Assignment Pass)
- ❖ **Passes may not be used on long-term projects, reports, or any other assignment the teacher designates as ineligible for the Late Assignment Pass!**
 - Assignments must be completed before class begins. You *should not* be scrambling to finish it during class.
 - Homework is considered an individual effort unless specifically stated otherwise.
 - You are held accountable for *all* Assignments & Projects; I **do not** chase students for missing scores.
 - Track your scores using the Parent Grade Portal; your child's code can be obtained by calling the office.
- ❖ **What is a "LATE ASSIGNMENT PASS"?** – for details please read the handout attached.
- ❖ **How many passes do I receive?** You will receive the following number of passes per class – science, reading, math, social studies, etc...
 - You will receive passes Quarterly:
 - Quarters 1 & 2 = 2 passes/Quarter/Class
 - Quarters 3 & 4 = 1 pass/Quarter/Class

NOTE: You **will not** receive a duplicate Pass for a lost one!
You **can not** give your Pass to another student!

- ❖ **Do I have to complete my assignment?** – **YES!!!**, the assignment will be due by start of class the next day with the attached "LATE ASSIGNMENT PASS" signed by your parent & attached to your assignment.
- ❖ **What happens if I do not have my homework the following day?** Your parents will be contacted & you will be required to complete the assignment in the office during your lunch time. Failure to turn in the completed assignment by the next day's class period or without the signed pass will result in a zero; when a student makes use of a Late Assignment Pass parents will be notified via email.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- ❖ St. Pius X Catholic School is a **"BULLY FREE ZONE."**

- ❖ Raise your hand and wait to be called on
- ❖ Do not speak while others are speaking
- ❖ Be a *thoughtful listener*
- ❖ Be in your seat and working on the opening activity immediately upon arriving to class
- ❖ Participate in class discussions
- ❖ Come prepared for class – Bring NOTEBOOK & materials to class
- ❖ Follow directions the first time they are given; Remember – **"3 BEFORE ME"**
- ❖ RESPECT your Teacher and your Classmates

I fully expect that these basic expectations will be followed *at all times*. If you fail to follow these expectations, you will receive one verbal warning. If the inappropriate behavior does not cease, you will be disciplined according to the rules found in the 'Student Handbook'. Our classroom should be a safe environment where learning is the top priority.

ARRIVE TO CLASS ON TIME

- ❖ Tardiness will not be accepted. (see handout – **TARDY POLICY**)
- ❖ You are being inconsiderate towards your Teacher and your Classmates, not to mention that you are cheating yourself out of valuable learning time.

ENTERING CLASS

- ❖ I expect that you will enter the room quietly.
- ❖ Once you have arrived, please sit in your seat, take out your notebook, and prepare for the **SN** that will be posted on the whiteboard. Follow the instructions carefully.

CLASS PREPARATION

- ❖ You **must be prepared** for every class. It detracts from learning time when you have not read or viewed the assigned materials.
- ❖ You received a list of necessary school supplies, and I expect You to use them.
- ❖ It is important to have all Notebooking supplies.
- ❖ You will **earn valuable points** for preparedness

RESTROOM

- ❖ You may use the restroom during class time, if NO other Student is out of the room.
- ❖ You will need to write your name on the board.

CLASS DISMISSAL

- ❖ **I DISMISS YOU, NOT THE BELL!** Before you can leave the room, it must be clean, the desks & floor clear of debris.

ABSENT

- ❖ If you are **ABSENT**, you are still responsible for the work that you miss.
- ❖ Your 'Homework Buddy' will prepare a **'ABSENT HOMEWORK SHEET'** with your assignments organized by class. It is ***your responsibility*** to pick up work from the office.
- ❖ You will have as many days as you were absent to complete the work. Extensions will be given only for extenuating circumstances (See – Student Handbook for policy).

CLASSROOM DRILLS

- ❖ We will have many SAFETY DRILLS this year for tornado, fire, intruder, and earthquake.
- ❖ When the Safety Bell sounds, ***YOU must immediately be quiet, stop moving, and listen for instruction.***

- ❖ We will quickly & orderly follow the drill procedure.

STUDENT UNIFORM POLICY

- ❖ Please review this policy, your teachers will be enforcing this policy (see Student Handbook for policy)

CLASSROOM COMMUNICATIONS

Communication tools share class information with Parents, keep Students organized, timely, responsible, & how to contact me.

❖ **PARENTS**

REMIND 101 – Important Dates or Events will be texted and/or e-mailed to Parents.

EDMODO – All class materials & calendar are posted on our class site.

❖ **STUDENTS**

EDMODO – All class materials & calendar are posted on our class site.

***Please make **first contact to me by email** jremis@spxmoberly.eduk12.net

- I will return your email with answers to your questions.
- I will be very happy to talk by phone or make an appointment to visit in person.
- Parents **will not be admitted** to the classroom before or after school without an appointment.

LET'S HAVE FUN LEARNING!

Mrs. Remis

Science can purify religion from error and superstition.
Religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes.
Saint Pope John Paul II

HANDOUTS FOR PARENTS

- ☐ EDMODO – Parent Instructions
- ☐ EDMODO – Parent Permission Slip

- ☐ REMIND 101 – Parent Instructions
- ☐ Late Work Policy
- ☐ Classroom Tardy Policy
- ☐ Behavior Policy

**PLEASE SIGN THIS CLASSROOM PROCEDURES 2014–2015
and RETURN TO CLASS**

DOCUMENT

(packet will be added to your child's science notebook for their reference)

PARENT SIGNATURE

STUDENT SIGNATURE

PARENT EMAIL