

SCIENCE

2016-2017



WELCOME TO 7TH GRADE

LEARNING IS LIFELONG

The 7th grade year will be a transition for students and also full of excitement and endless learning opportunities.

Who Am I?

Brandy Davis

I am a long time member in the Pinckney community. I attended Western Michigan University where I received my Bachelors degree in education, and I also have a Masters degree in education from Marygrove College. I have been teaching in Pinckney Community Schools for 22 years. I have two sons; Sullivan is 18 and a freshman at Grand Valley State University, and Drew is 14 and a sophomore in high school.

I believe that communication is extremely important to make a school year successful so you will get weekly updates from me. You, and your student will be able to access my weekly agenda on my website that is linked below. You can also contact me via email or phone whenever you have a question or concern. I look forward to hearing from you.

Phone: 810-225-5269

Email:

bdavis@pinckneypirates.org

Website:

bdavispathfinder.weebly.com

7TH GRADE SCIENCE INFORMATION

Students in science will be using technology and active learning to learn a variety of skills needed to apply the Michigan GLEC's. In addition to the GLEC's we will be transitioning into the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) by doing several units throughout the year using more critical thinking and communication skills. The topics we will be covering this year will be: **chemistry, waves and energy, and cells.** Students will not be receiving individual science textbooks, however they can check a book out if needed. Textbooks can also be accessed online. Information regarding the online textbook will come home at a later time.

GRADING POLICY

Students will be graded using formative and summative assessments. There is a description of the two on page 2 of this letter. Formative assessments are worth 20% of the students grade and summative assessments are worth 80%. For a list of percentages and grades see the student handbook. If you have questions regarding the grading policy, please contact me.

7TH GRADE SCIENCE INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

Being in class is the best way for students to learn. It increases achievement and students are able to retain information. If a student has absences, prearranged or unexpected, the teacher website and agenda will help students make up their work with the district guidelines for absent work.

Homework

When there is not assigned homework, any classwork that is not finished by the end of class becomes self-assigned homework. This is always due the next science day. Please refer to the weekly agendas to see what's going on in class. I do not penalize for late work, however, it must be turned in before the unit test to count for credit and a formative grade.

Quizzes and Tests

Quizzes are given more often than tests and both require independent study time.

Notes, class review, and study guides are provided and students are expected to use them to prepare for quizzes and tests outside of class. Students have the opportunity to re-take tests and quizzes if they complete corrections and make arrangements with me to re-take before or after school.

Citizenship Marks

Students are expected to come to class prepared to learn and participate. This includes writing utensils, textbook (if needed), binders, chrome books, and completed homework. Unprepared students are not able to learn completely and it will lower their citizenship mark on their report card.

Mastery Learning is a practice that allows students who don't master content the first time around to have more practice so they can eventually master the information. All students don't learn at the same pace, so this allows for more students to reach a higher level of learning. Students will be encouraged to prove mastery of learning targets by completing formative assignments that include class and homework practice; while summative assignments consists of tests, quizzes, writing assignments, projects that show mastery of content. If mastery is not shown, re-takes will be encouraged to improve learning.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

for Success

Communication

MiStar

Students and parents are encouraged to check grades through the grading program MiStar. This is the main source of communication and weekly announcements will be sent home. Both grades and agendas are updated weekly.

Classroom Agendas

Each week students will receive an agenda that gives weekly classwork, homework, and assignment guidelines. These are also available on the website.

bdavispathfinder.weebly.com



Student Supplies

Student Supplies Needed

1.5" 3-ring binder

spiral notebook (1 subject/70 pages)

5 tabbed dividers

(Pencil Pouch with the following ...)

Pencils

Colored Pencils

Adult Scissors

Glue Sticks

Highlighter

Any Color Pen

Classroom Donations Appreciated

Kleenex

Antibacterial Wipes