



Ms. O'Connell & Ms. Mai &
Mrs. Keane
MSMSA UGC 6-8 Science

Mark Sheridan
Academy

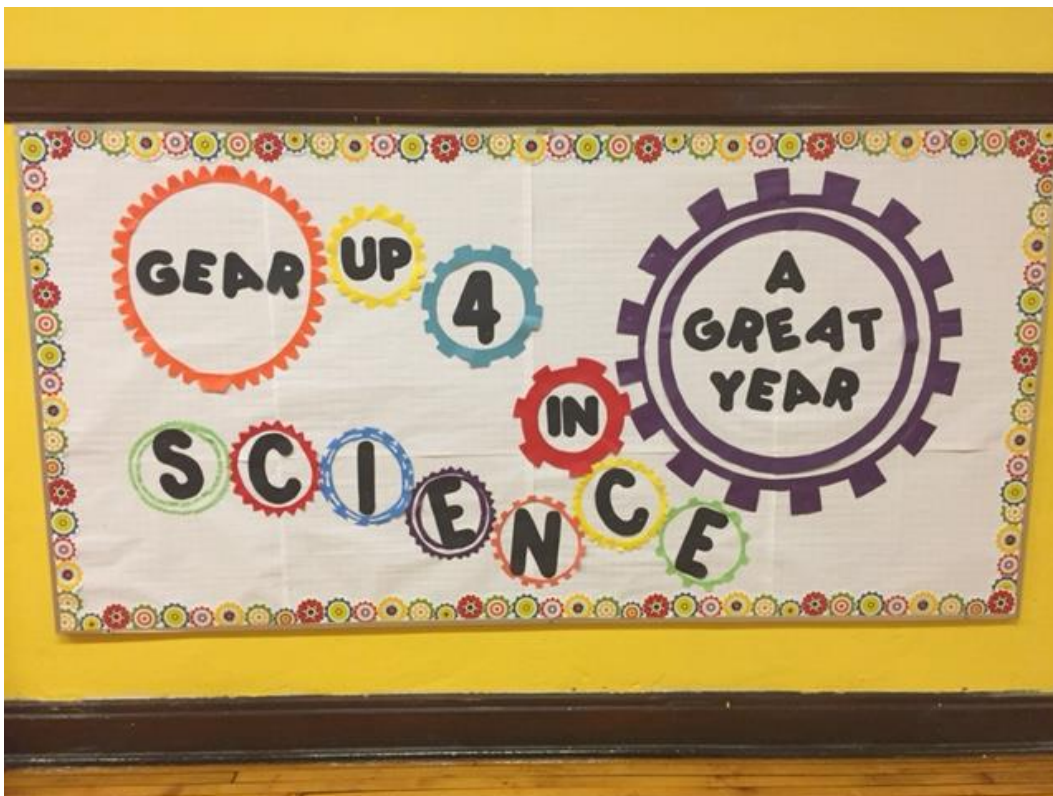
CPS

Fall, 2016

Welcome to the 2016-2017 School Year!

Welcome back to another year of science at MSA! We are excited and looking forward to a happy and productive school year. We are sure you are looking forward to getting started on some great science topics and fun labs!

Whether you are new to the UGC by transfer from another school, promotion to the sixth grade from Ms. Laster or Ms. Brown's rooms or are returning to UGC in the seventh or eighth grades, every new school year brings new information to learn.

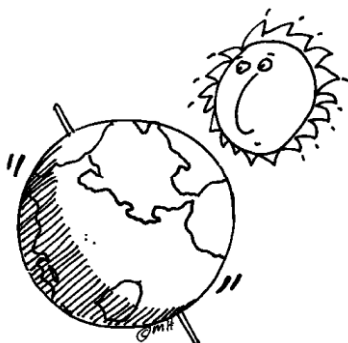


Curricular Focus

The 6th grade will be studying topics in *Earth and Space Science*.

The 7th grade will be studying topics in *Life Science*.

The 8th grade will be studying topics in *Physical Science (Chemistry and Physics)*.



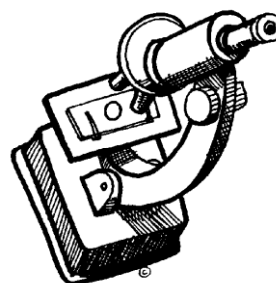
Learning Activities

Students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades will be required to complete various types of learning activities and assignments.

- Perform laboratory experiments and complete written lab reports;
- Complete written assignments that support textual information (including chapter review questions and reinforcement/enrichment worksheets) as well as assignments from supplemental material used to ensure the Illinois State Learning Goals are met;
- Complete quizzes (announced and unannounced) and tests;
- Complete *Science World* magazine readings and questions;

Homework Policy

- Homework is to be completed carefully, accurately and on time.
- All assignments are due the following science class unless told otherwise.
- If an assignment is not turned in on time, the student will receive a 0% on the assignment.
- After three (3) missing assignments in a 10 week marking period, a check (✓) will be placed on the report card.



Behavior Policy

Appropriate behavior is expected. MSA's discipline procedures will be followed and the *Uniform Discipline Code of the Chicago Board of Education* will be enforced.



Grading Policy

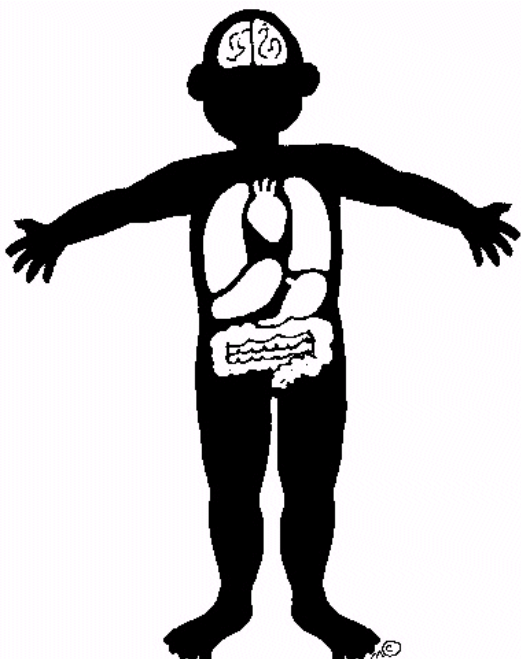
Students' grades will be averaged during the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarters using the following weights:

Classwork/Homework*	25%
Lab Reports/Special Assignments*	25%
Quizzes*	25%
Tests	25%

*Lowest grade is dropped from this category.

The Mark Sheridan Math & Science Academy grading scale will be followed.

A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	0% - 59%

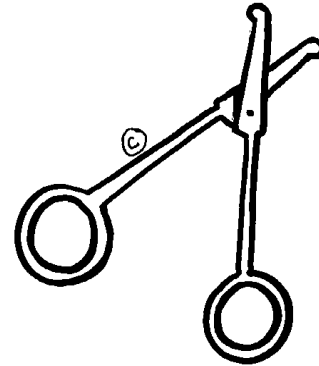


Absences

- When absent from school, students are responsible for homework due the day of the absence. It is to be turned in the day they return. For excused absences, assignments are accepted on the day of return without penalty.
- It is advisable that students ask one of their classmates to be responsible for writing down their homework for them if they are out. It is good citizenship to offer to keep track of absent classmates' missed work for them in return.
- Work missed due to an excused absence is to be turned in within a reasonable amount of time relative to the length of the absence without penalty.
- If a student is absent for a lab, they will have missed an experience that cannot be made up. Attendance is directly related to lab performance. In the event a student misses a lab, it is his or her responsibility to get the data collected from his or her lab partner(s) and **complete the lab**. Students will only be excused from a lab on a case-by-case basis.

Materials

- Spiral bound notebook for science notes only
 - Folder to keep handouts and papers organized
 - 2 3-pronged pocket folders (plastic)
 - Calculator
 - Looseleaf paper
 - Looseleaf graph paper (4 squares per inch)
 - Graph Composition notebook (SPA classes)
 - Ruler (metric)
 - Sharpened colored pencils
 - Pencil sharpener
 - Glue sticks
 - Scissors
 - Blue/black pens
 - Correcting pen (any color)
 - Pencils
 - Book cover (extra large or jumbo)
 - 1 Roll Paper towel
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- Students are expected to be prepared with all supplies for class each day.
 - Students are not allowed to return to their homeroom to retrieve forgotten materials; this not only disrupts our class, but also interrupts the class they need to enter.
 - While accidents do happen, the student will replace damaged lab materials and broken glassware if it is determined that the damage was done deliberately or was the result of carelessness



Science Fair

The Science Fair project assignment for the SPA students will be discussed at a later date once details are finalized. Stay tuned.....

Student/Teacher Communication

It's important to understand appropriate communication for a school setting. When emailing me please use appropriate style and language for school. When communicating with teachers and other staff members, you should write in full, grammatically correct sentences and with a respectful tone. Many students are used to a very informal style of writing in chat rooms, blogs, text messages, and so forth. Do not use text message shorthand. Remember to always be thoughtful about who your audience is. It is preferred that you use your CPS email when sending me messages. However if you use something else, please sign your name. We don't always know who footballguy1 or chatty2014 is. ☺

Parent/Teacher Communication

If you need to contact one of us please send an email. Email is checked several times a day, during school hours. We will do our best to get back to you within 24 hours. We cannot promise that a phone call will be returned promptly.

We will send home a note that is to be signed if your child does not have an assignment completed or there is a behavior issue we feel you should know about. If the note is not returned signed, we will follow up with an email. If a pattern of either missing work or poor behavior occurs, the matter will be referred to the administration and you may be contacted for a meeting. If you have any concerns please feel free to contact us as well.

Box Tops for Education for MSA's Science Labs

Look for the Box Tops logo on hundreds of products like Cheerios®, Hamburger Helper® and Kleenex®. All you need to do is clip, tape to the monthly themed Box Top page and send to your child's science teacher-- each one is worth 10¢ for our science labs. Each sheet holds 10 Box Tops, or \$1.00 of FREE money.

PLEASE RETURN SIGNED BY FRIDAY, 9/9/16.

MSMSA's Upper Grade Science Course Information and Requirements

In an effort to be a little green, save more than a ream of copy paper and a tree or two, we did not have this handout photocopied. We went over this and projected it during your child's class.

Please log onto Ms. Keane's website:

www.beverlykeane@weebly.com

Go to the "Handouts" link and open the Fall 2016 Newsletter file. If you do not have access to viewing this document, we will be happy to send a hard copy home.

Read pages 1-5 and then please return this page **ONLY** to your science teacher. There is no need to print any page of the newsletter (unless your child forgot to bring home the hard copy given to him/her in class ☺).

I have read **MSMSA's** UGC Science Course Information and Requirements for the 2016-2017 school year.

Student _____ Room _____

Parent(Print) _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Email _____

Parent (Print) _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Email _____