

**Pine Valley Middle School**  
**2009 - 2010**  
**Ms. Cheryl T. Charles**  
Room P-3 Prep: Period 6  
Online: [www.pvms.schoolloop.com](http://www.pvms.schoolloop.com)  
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### **Sixth Grade Science Course Description**

The focus of sixth grade science is the study of the earth. We will use the California State Framework and the San Ramon Valley Unified School District guidelines as we explore our planet:

Unit 1: Earth Systems and Processes Introduction to Earth Science Weathering and Soil Erosion and Deposition	Unit 2: Plate Tectonics and Earth's Structure Plate Tectonics Earthquakes Volcanoes
Unit 3: Weather and Climate The Atmosphere Weather Climate and Climate Change	Unit 4: Ecology and Resources Ecosystems Living Resources Energy and Material Resources

### **Course Requirements**

Each student will be graded on the following four categories:

- Class Work
- Homework
- Tests and Quizzes
- Projects and Binder Checks

Grades are calculated using points, and can be viewed online at any time at [www.pvms.schoolloop.com](http://www.pvms.schoolloop.com). Every effort will be made to update grades quickly, but please allow up to two weeks for an assignment to be graded (per school policy).

### **Class Work**

Activities in class include lab experiments and reports, study aids and video notes. **All class work is kept in your science binder, which you bring to class every day.** Class work totals about 35% of your science grade.

### **Homework**

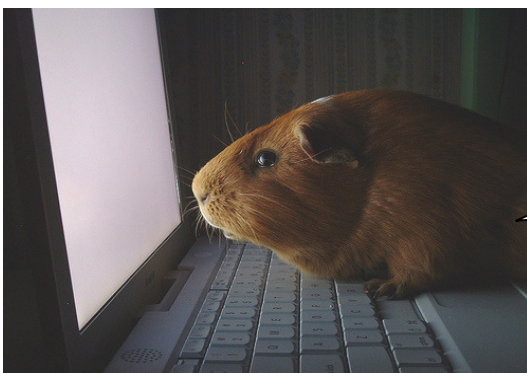
The new district homework policy guides the assigning of all homework. This includes reading notes, follow up activities and work on class projects. **All homework is kept in your science binder.** It totals about 35% of your grade.

### **Tests and Quizzes**

Students will be tested on their understanding of the material and on skills taught in class. We will learn study skills and fact-finding techniques so that students know how to succeed on tests. **Tests and quizzes total about 30% of the science grade.**

### **Science Reading Notes**

Students will learn how to take reading notes in class. They will then be assigned a section to read in the textbook and take notes on. When the notes are due, students will take a short (5 to 10 minute) quiz, using their notes to answer 5 to 10 questions.



Let's see... I'll just go to [www.pvms.schoolloop.com](http://www.pvms.schoolloop.com) and check on my grade in science... Yeah! It's an A!

### **Binder and Binder Reminder**

Each student should have a science binder to bring to class every day. All homework, handouts, worksheets, tests, labs and notes are to be kept in the binder in order. The first page of the binder is an assignment sheet, which lists all the assignments by number. The binder will be graded on completeness, organization and neatness. The binder reminder must be brought to class every day. We start our science learning using the binder reminder. On Fridays we have a binder reminder check.

### **Classroom Behavior**

Our class rules are the same as the Pine Valley School rules. Please refer to the handbook for these rules. We also have classroom safety rules, particularly during laboratory experiments. Safety and respect for others are the most important rules.

### **Tardy Policy**

The first tardy to science class results in a verbal warning, the second in a litter pickup, and the third tardy a fifteen minute lunch detention. The fourth tardy will result in a referral to the office.

### **Absent/Late Work**

Late work is only accepted if a student has been absent or a late pass is attached to the assignment. If a student is absent, the missed work must be completed and turned in within one week. Each student will receive two late passes every quarter. Students are responsible for checking Schoolloop for missed assignments, and talking to the teacher about assignments. Remember, all class work, homework and tests must be made up within five days upon returning to class.

### **Extra Credit**

Extra credit is offered throughout the year, usually as extended enrichment activities to be done outside the classroom on weekends.

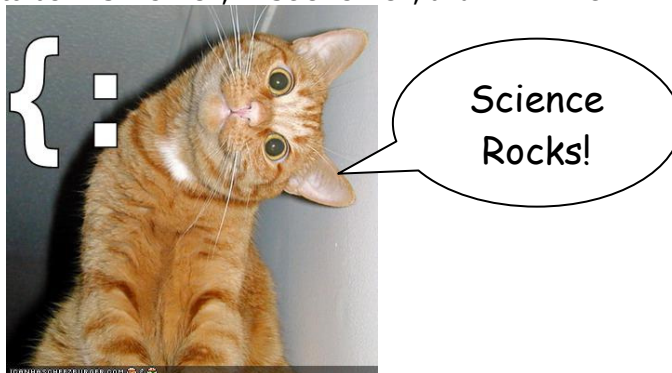
### **Grading Scale**

Over 100% = A+	87 – 89 % = B+	77 – 79 % = C+	65 – 69 % = D+
94 – 100 % = A	84 – 86 % = B	74 – 76 % = C	60 – 64 % = D
90 – 93 % = A-	80 – 83 % = B-	70 – 73 % = C-	53 – 59 % = D-
			below 53% = F

### **Teacher Availability**

Ms. Charles is available at lunch time Monday through Thursday for students to make up absent work, get extra help, or make up tests and quizzes. Students can also attend study hall from 2:45pm to 3:30pm on Mondays and Thursdays in P-3 (my room). Parents can reach me on Schoolloop with specific questions, or we can set up an appointment during my prep period (6<sup>th</sup> period) on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday.

I expect all my students to be RESPECTFUL, RESOURCEFUL, and READY TO LEARN!



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Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_