

**2009-2010**  
**Pine Valley Middle School**  
**Mr. Adam Liebow**

Room P-4

Online: [www.pvms.schoolloop.com](http://www.pvms.schoolloop.com)

**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/Labs and Binder Checks

Grades are calculated using a point system, 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.

**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.

**Homework**

This includes reading notes, follow up activities and work on class projects. All homework is kept in your science binder.

**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.

**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 may take a short (5 to 10 minute) quiz, using their notes to answer 5 to 10 questions.

### **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 and parent notification. 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. 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 one week upon returning to class.

### **Grading Policy**

Class work/Labs	25%
Homework/ Projects	25%
Tests/Quizzes	40%
Participation	10%

### **Grading Scale**

Over 100% = A+	87 – 89 % = B+	77 – 79 % = C+	67 – 69 % = D+
94 – 100 % = A	84 – 86 % = B	74 – 76 % = C	64 – 66 % = D
90 – 93 % = A-	80 – 83 % = B-	70 – 73 % = C-	60 – 63 % = D-
Below 60% = F			

### **Teacher Availability**

Parents can reach me on Schoolloop with specific questions, or parents can call the school at 479-7700 to leave a message or to set up an appointment during my prep period 7<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 \_\_\_\_\_