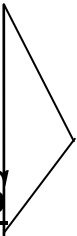


WEST Elizabeth
JEFFERSON
Pleasant HILLS



SCHOOL DISTRICT

PLEASANT HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL
404 OLD CLAIRTON ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15236-0019

Suzan Petersen, Principal
Daniel Como, Vice Principal

Phone (412) 655-8680
Fax (412) 655-5691

Dear Parents,

Allow me to take a moment to describe your child's 7th grade Life Science classroom experience:

Each day begins with a 'Warm-up.' Warm-ups tend to be questions about the material we are currently studying. They can also be prompts to prepare for that day's lesson. Warm-ups are to be completed or tended to as students enter the classroom, just prior to the bell ringing. As the bell rings signifying that class is beginning, we jump right into the daily lesson using the warm-up as our diving board. Our daily activities include hands-on labs, thought-provoking discussions, and interactive presentations. As class draws to a close, a general review of key points are reiterated verbally or in written form.

This daily scenario is typical of the majority of days in my Science classroom. Requirements such as a notebook, pen, etc. for this class are listed on my website.

Students that are absent one day are to obtain a copy of the homework hotline from the box in the front of the school, check the homework hotline online, and/or call the homework hotline prior to approaching me about make-up work. Once the assignment is received from the hotline, I encourage students to approach me during the morning of their return should they have any questions about what work was missed or to obtain notes.

Students that are absent more than one day are to obtain a copy of the homework hotline during the days they are absent. Once a student returns, they should approach me during the morning of their return to set goals for completing and turning in all missed assignments.

The seventh grade Life Science curriculum's material and vocabulary are oftentimes newly introduced at this level. The content taught directly correlates to the Pennsylvania state standards for Science and Technology as well as Environment and Ecology. This class is challenging. Much more effort is required than simply skimming a textbook passage for answers to questions on a worksheet. Your child will not only be learning new vocabulary and the context in which it belongs, but also how to apply the new skills to further assist them in thinking for themselves with critical reading and thinking applications.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at jcramer@wjhsd.net or 412-655-8680.

Best Regards,

Jennifer Cramer