September 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I welcome you and your child to a new school year at Pittsburgh Barack Obama Academy of International Studies 6-12. I look forward to preparing your child to meet and exceed the expectations of this 6th grade science course. In order for them to maximize their potential and achievement, I ask you to be aware of their progress (using the online grade book), provide any assistance you can to them on course assignments and review the rest of the information in this document.

Course Description

The 6th grade Science course provides a framework from which students will engage in the processes of scientific inquiry while examining biological concepts aligned to the PSSA Exam, The Common Core State Standards for Literacy in Science, and the Next Generation Science Standards. We will follow the course roadmap to ensure your child gets the opportunity to explore each unit of study.

The course sequence will progress in the following manner:

- **Physical Science** – Forces & Motion, Matter & Phase Changes, Simple Machines
- **Life Science** – Living Organisms, Flow of Energy & Matter in Ecosystems, Populations
- **Earth Science** – Earth’s Place in the Universe, The Water Cycle, Weather, Climate and Atmosphere

Science learning objectives specific to IBMYP will be assessed using the IBMYP assessment criteria listed below:

A. Knowing and Understanding  
B. Inquiring and Designing  
C. Processing and Evaluating  
D. Reflecting on the Impact of Science

Course Materials

Students are asked to bring a science notebook (composition book or 1 subject spiral notebook), a pencil, an Agenda book and a pocket folder to organize any handouts or course materials.
Grading Policy

All assignments are expected to be submitted by the student on the due date to receive full credit. Any late submissions will be penalized with a grade or point value deduction based on established class policies. **No extra credit assignments will be provided at any point this year.**

Grades are calculated using a number of different types of course assignments.

- **Classwork** – 25%
- **Tests/Quizzes** – 25%
- **Participation** – 20%
- **Writing** – 20%
- **Homework** – 10%

**Late work policy** – students are responsible for any missing assignments upon return from an absence. Students are responsible for requesting their make-up assignments. They have as many days as they were absent to complete missing assignments or a zero will be earned. All homework is due the day after it is assigned unless otherwise noted and may be submitted 1 day late for half credit.

**Grading Scale:**

- A = 90 – 100%
- B = 80 – 89%
- C = 70 – 79%
- D = 60 – 69%
- Below 60% = E

**Classroom Expectations**

1. Students are expected to be on time to class. (4 tardies to class = 1 detention)
2. Students are expected to come to class prepared.
3. No food or drink is permitted for safety issues.
4. Cell phones are not permitted.
5. Listen when the teacher is providing instruction or directions.
Discipline Policy

If students are failing to meet classroom expectations or are causing a classroom disruption the following steps will be taken:

1. Teacher/student conference
2. Phone call home if the problem persists
3. Teacher will request a parent conference if the problem has not been solved

Daily Routine

1. **Warm Up** – written response to a prompt in their journal (5 minutes)
2. **Instruction/Assignment** - What, Why and How will be provided on the chalkboard to ensure student is aware of daily goals and objectives.
3. **Assessment** – used to assess student understandings of lesson/daily instruction
4. **Homework** – given daily *(due the next day unless teacher provides a date)*

If you have any questions regarding this course or your child, please contact me using my email address sbachar1@pghboe.net or by phone (412) 529-2275.

Thank You,

Mr. Scott Bachar

Approved : ______________________________, Principal

Please fill out this form and have your child return this last page to me.
I have read the course policies in Mr. Bachar’s Science 6 class. I understand and accept the course expectations and policies. I will take personal responsibility of these expectations and policies to ensure of my success in Science 6 class.

Student Signature ________________________________ Date ________________

Parent Signature ________________________________

Preferred method of contact (email address or phone #) ________________________________