



Our World Neighborhood Charter School

Ms. Cyriac – Science Teacher

Ms. Edmiston – Principal

Syllabus

I.) Class Rules

- A) All school rules must be followed in Ms. Cyriac's class.
 - 1) No hats, electronic devices, or headphones. No Exceptions!!
 - 2) Food, beverages, and chewing gum are not allowed.
- B) Students will be responsible for all notes, homework, projects, and other assignments. Ms. Cyriac will be creating a website so that students can access helpful resources, a copy of the syllabus, announcements, current events, and other assignments online in case a student is absent as well as to remind students of important dates for quizzes, exams, etc. The website will be up and running very soon.
- C) Excessive talking, unruly behavior, and lateness will hurt your ability to perform in class. This will also impact your class participation grade. Punctuality is very important in my class. If students are late, they must give in a late pass.
- D) Students will respect Ms. Cyriac, school property AND each other.

II.) Grading System

- A) 5% - Classwork / Participation
 - 1) Students are expected to work diligently in the classroom. Work done in class may be collected and graded (ex. Exit slip).
 - 2) Participation consists of asking questions when something is not understood, being punctual to class, and actively participating in class activities.
- B) 10% - Homework
 - 1) Homework will be numbered.
 - 2) Homework will be given 3-4 times a week and may consist of creative work, handouts, etc.

- 3) Students are responsible for handing in any homework when it is due. Students that hand in work late will experience a deduction in points. Work that is not submitted will count as “0”.
- C) 10% - Quizzes
- 1) Quizzes will cover 1-2 chapters of the current unit of study. A review session will always be given before a quiz.
 - 2) The format of a quiz can be one or a variety of the following: Vocabulary, Short Answer, Fill in the Blank, Multiple Choice, or Matching
 - 3) Students may earn the privilege of using handouts, notes, classwork, and/or vocabulary cards during quizzes (*under certain conditions- See Miscellaneous*).
- D) 30% - Tests (***Not Open Book***)
- 1) Tests will be given to students at the end of each unit. A review session will always be given before a test.
 - 2) The format of a test can be a variety of the following: Vocabulary, Short Answer, Fill in the Blank, Multiple Choice, and/or Matching.
 - 3) Some of the questions for tests may be asked to students during review, which is why it is important that all students pay attention during class review. Extra help will also be offered before a test after school.
 - 4) Students will get the chance to create their own questions for certain tests/quizzes as a team.
 - 5) Creating a **TOTAL OF 25** vocabulary cards with important words, definitions, and/or notes and showing it to Ms. Cyriac before the start of each test will allow students to receive 5 extra points on their test.
- E) 20 % - Projects – Ex.) Research projects, Creative assignments, etc.
- 1) There will be at least one project every quarter.
 - 2) Student will always be given a sufficient amount of time (2-3 weeks) to complete their projects.
 - 3) Students may earn an extension on Projects.
 - 4) Most Projects will be assigned as individual assignments, but some may be worked on with a partner or in groups.
 - 5) Students will have different options for completing projects.
- F) 5% - Portfolio
- 1) Students are responsible for consistently working on their portfolio and handing it in when it is due. A late portfolio will result in deduction of points.

G) 20% - Labs

- 1) Lab will take place once a week.
- 2) Lab will consist of hands on activities in which students will have to work in groups or pairs to complete a task. Students are required to actively participate as well as hand in any assignments that are given to them during lab. Late lab work will result in a deduction of points.

III.) Supplies

For Science Class, you must bring pens and pencils, a 3-ring binder (a binder with pockets is recommended), and looseleaf. If the binder does not consist of a pocket for worksheets, please also bring a folder as you will receive many handouts. The binder can be divided into two sections- for lecture and lab. You will also need an additional two folders, which will be used for the portfolio and lab.

IV.) Miscellaneous

- A) Science class will be very informative yet fun. Questions and discussions are encouraged. However, excessive talking and disruptions will impact your child's ability to function successfully in Ms. Cyriac's class. Mandatory Study Hall will be given to those students who frequently show a lack of effort.
- B) Ms. Cyriac's class is designed to inspire, challenge, and enlighten your child. Hard work is necessary to succeed, while lack of effort will cause difficulties. Ms. Cyriac will always bring a positive attitude to class. She expects all of her students to do the same.
- C) Students can be rewarded certain benefits, such as extra credit assignments, extra credit points, test corrections, extensions, and open notebook quizzes depending on their behavior in class. If students are well behaved and are doing what they are supposed to do, they will be rewarded with these benefits.
- D) Ms. Cyriac can be reached through her school E-mail address (bcyriac@owncs.org). Important dates (such as dates for tests, quizzes, due dates, etc.) will all be posted on a separate website, which will be accessible to parents and students, as soon as it is up and running.

V.) What will we be learning this year?

Quarter 1:

- **What is Science?:** Students think deeply and communicate their ideas about what science is and entails. They will become familiar with different branches and disciplines of science. Students will research and summarize findings on specialists of various areas of science. Students will explore the idea of "doing science" and brainstorm the phenomenon using inferences to define it for themselves.

- **Science Laboratory Equipment and Skills:** As students begin Quarter 1, they will initially explore basic science skills and laboratory safety rules. The scientific method steps and the handling of lab equipment will be reviewed from the previous year's lessons. These science practices will be incorporated into developing a testable investigation. They will learn and re-familiarize themselves with the metric system, triple beam balance, graduated cylinder, and the microscope in preparing them for future investigations and the New York State Science Exam in June. Students will also study how independent and dependent variables influence experiments in the laboratory and assignments, such as their year-long Exit Project investigation.

- **DNA Genetics and Heredity:** The study of DNA is an exploration of how some elements shape the characteristics of our features and the genetics of our makeup. Students will trace the characteristics of their own features to proteins and then even further to the genetic material inside the nucleus in every cell in their bodies. They will identify cell structures and functions and the chromosomes and genes that determine unique traits. Using base-pair models of double-helix DNA molecules, they will study DNA replication and DNA transcription to messenger RNA. They will research how and where mutations can occur, and compare animal cells to bacterial, viral, and plant cells. Finally, students will be introduced to the researchers who constructed the double-helix model of the DNA molecule and to the Human Genome Project.

Quarter 2:

- **Force and Motion:** Students will begin to uncover explanations for why things work in the ways we expect them to work. Students will observe and describe an object's motion in terms of change of position and measure the distance traveled in metric units. They will work with air trolleys to define terms, gather and graph data, and analyze outcomes in different graphic representations. They will learn how to identify and measure speed, velocity, and acceleration. Students will also use the Dotcar to collect data for analysis and apply their knowledge of momentum in relation to car crashes.

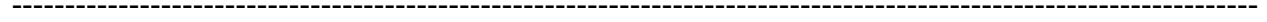
Quarter 3:

- **Planetary Science and Astronomy:** During third quarter, students discover how Earth's motion relates to the cycles of both day and night, the annual seasons, and the changing planet positions and constellations in the sky. Students will investigate images from the Hubble space station and space shuttle programs, which will in turn support the life cycles of stars, the shapes of the galaxies, and the size of the universe. Students will build instruments, including solar quadrants, astrolabes, and telescopes to explore space navigation. Students will also learn

about how stars go through a cycle of formation and destruction and how they produce and release energy.

Quarter 4:

- **The Human Brain and Senses:** Students will study the brain and its five senses examining how it is made up and understanding how it functions and works to control their whole body. They will explore exercises and labs that go over their use of their five senses as well as memory tasks. Students will investigate how the brain senses interpret and register information. They will go over tests involving the brain such as MRI's, and EEG's and how they reveal brain activity. Dr. Ben Carson and his achievements in neurology will also be highlighted and discussed. The importance of excelling beyond physical limits is shared throughout his study as one of his character lessons to all students. Helen Keller, who was blind and deaf, is used to accent the senses and their importance to us in this world around us.



Student's Name (Print) _____

Parent's Signature _____