



Chimacum Middle School

Mr. Al González, 6th grade Science



Teacher Commitment

Welcome to Mr. González's 6th grade Science! I post news and deadlines on my website, <http://educatoral.com/> so check it often to keep up with Science. My website is the best way to find out what your child is doing in Science. I see about 130 students everyday so I will only post general information about all my classes on the website as opposed to individual information about each student. If you need to contact me you can email me at al_gonzalez@csd49.org. You can also call the school and leave me a message at **732-4219** or you can text me or leave me a voicemail at **360-453-7021**. If you send a text message to **50500** and type **educatoral** as the message you will get a copy of business card texted back to you in case you lose the paper copy.

I will be putting a link on my website to your child's progress in class and I **update those online progress reports every three or four weeks** (short assignments like homework, blog posts, etc I can update more frequently). I can also print progress reports for you whenever you need. At the midterm your child will receive a formal progress report but don't worry, that is not a final grade. Final grades are posted at the end of each 12 or 13 week term. If your child keeps up with his or her work all our lives will be made easier. Rushing at the end of the trimester to catch up on missing work is not a habit we want to instill in our children.

My primary goal is to provide a student-focused environment where **responsibility** is practiced and all students are challenged and engaged in meaningful learning. I strongly believe that all students can be successful and learn Science. I do my best to provide exciting learning opportunities using the **tools of the 21st Century**. I incorporate technology into many of my lessons because technology is an excellent way for students to communicate, share and comment on what they are learning. I want my students to learn the way they learn best and the way that people learn and share information now. I am finding ways to have students use their cell phones in Science. Even though students can use home computers, laptops or cell phones and mobile devices they are not required to use any of those. If your child does not have a computer or the Internet at home and cannot stay after school to use my class computers or library computers assignments can still be turned in using paper and pencil. **No need to buy anything, please!**

I also recognize that students enter my classroom with an array of life experiences, including various exposures to scientific concepts. My objective is to gauge each student's knowledge and preconceptions in order to plan rigorous lessons for students at all levels of understanding, focusing on the processes that will lead to future success in science studies. Students will not just conduct labs and experiments but they will learn how to use the scientific method to conduct their labs and how to write up their labs. Students will score each other's lab write-ups to help them learn the process.

Student and Teacher Expectations:

In this classroom you will be given the privilege and the great responsibility to take a great deal of ownership over how your time is spent in class. Planning and managing your time and workload takes self-control and motivation. These skills are essential for student success in middle school, high school, and college, as well as being a contributing member of our society. Project-based learning is a great way to learn responsibility.

A lot of the work in Science will be done in teams. Your child is graded on how hard she or he works as well as on completing projects successfully. Each student has to do work for her/himself and for the group. **If students do everything they are supposed to do, they will get a good grade based on what they do. If your child does that and puts forth effort, your child will do wonderfully in my class.** The student that does less work in a group project will get a lower grade.

Effort counts for a lot in my book. My expectations are that all students write in full and complete sentences, that all students use details to back up what they write or say, and that all students treat each other well. Extra credit is always available for students who are caught up with all their class assignments or for students who need or want alternative assignments. Especially those who miss class.

If you're interested here are some of the articles I've been reading this summer - <http://delicious.com/educatoral/21stCenturyResearch>

Course Description

This class will consist of experiences in the following curriculum:

- I. Volcanoes
 - a. Mt. Saint Helens
- II. Water Quality
 - a. Chimacum Creek
 - b. Salmon Life Cycle
- III. Energy, Machines, and Motion
 - a. Forms of Energy, Forces, Simple Machines, and Motion

Supply List

Students need two Composition Notebooks and one Pee Chee type folder, which will stay in class at all times. I do this so that students do not lose their notebooks. In addition, the following supplies need to be brought to class everyday:

- Pencil with eraser
- Handheld pencil sharpener
- Blue or black pen
- Colored pen for correcting
- Glue stick
- Colored pencils or markers

Classroom Expectations for Students and Teachers

- Respect the rights and property of others.
- Do not interfere with others' rights to learn.
- Come to class prepared and on time

In addition, the school's general expectations will be observed.

Grading Scale

Following is the grading scale that I will use for this year:

A+	100%	Excellent! Puts forth great effort as well as completing all assignments.
A	93%	
A-	90%	
B+	89%	Good job! Puts forth good effort as well as completing all or most assignments.
B	83%	
B-	80%	
C+	79%	Not bad! Puts forth some effort and completed some assignments.
C	73%	
C-	70%	
D+	69%	Needs improvement. Needs to put forth more effort. Did not complete enough assignments.
D	66%	
F	59% or lower.	Not trying to pass or purposefully trying to fail. We need to meet. Please email me.

Tests, labs, quizzes, and projects will receive a point score and a corresponding letter grade based on the percentages above. Class work and homework will also count into the overall grade. Tests are worth more than homework or class work, but projects are the most important and worth the most while labs are somewhere in between. Homework is worth the least so not doing homework cannot cause a student to flunk (unless the student is already flunking), but I encourage all students to do their homework because it will allow them to confirm their learning. Missing assignments that are done after the fact or copied, will receive a lower grade while assignments that are missing completely will receive a zero. So please turn in all your assignments even if they are late.

Al González

(Cut here and return to teacher **OR TEXT OR EMAIL ME** with your child's name.)

Student's name _____ [Re: Expectations & Grading Scale]

I have read the aforementioned _____
(Parent's signature)

on _____
(today's date).

21st Century Tools!

Dear Parents,

In an effort to help prepare my students to use the tools they love for education and someday for work, I have been reading about using 21st Century tools in the classroom (<http://delicious.com/educatoral/21stCenturyResearch>). In education students use blogs, wikis, and cell phones, among other tools, to communicate with people on different schedules or different locations by posting their ideas to a group and allowing others to comment. I use such communication to have students reflect on what they're learning so they can demonstrate that they are learning or so other students and I can see if anyone isn't getting a concept. Working with 130 students every day I can use all the help I can get. With work published on the Internet more eyes than just mine will be on our students' work.

We have been using a class blog so that our students can share their ideas and what they are learning in Science with other students around the world. As with every Internet activity that I sponsor at school, I will monitor all activities your child participates in here at school. I would request you also monitor them on the computer and cell phone at home, too.

Since I am responsible for what is posted to our blog site, I will approve any posting in the way of articles or comments on other articles. If I do not approve a posting, I will explain to your child what the reason is and give him/her an opportunity to edit the posting or to repost.

Please be assured that this is not a "myspace.com" site or activity. The web address is on classblogmeister.com, which was set up by a former Educational Technology Director in North Carolina for the purpose of teachers using it with their students. Our specific class blog site is <http://mrgonzalez.org/> and on this site you will see the assignments on the left with my class lists on the right. Clicking on your child's name or any name will take you to your child's webpage where you will see the things your child or the students in our class have written and have been approved by me. If you are looking at your child's site, your child can log into the site and look at any article that has been written and/or is awaiting approval.

Once I have your approval for your child to participate in this project, you will need to send a password back to me and I will change it to the password of your choice.

This year I am looking forward to offering other opportunities for students to participate in online discussions through forums, wikis, and even using their cell phones. I offer many opportunities for all my students to share their learning and to learn but I am not asking any family to purchase anything they don't already own. **I still accept all work on paper.** Most of the assignments we do such as blogging homework only amount to 10% of your child's overall grade in Science so not completing homework will never result in flunking Science on its own (a student will need to have at least D to flunk from not doing their blogging homework). I do encourage all students to do their homework, as it will help them learn the concepts.

I will be happy to answer any questions you might have and would appreciate your comments.

[Please choose the password for your class blog: _____]

I am **willing** to have my child try this project. _____
Parent Signature

I would like to **decline** participation in this project. _____
Parent Signature

*(If your child cannot complete our class blog assignments on the Internet here at school, at the library, from a cell phone, nor at home, then your child can always complete the assignments on paper and still receive **full credit**. Your child will only miss out on sharing ideas with other students from around the world.)*

Blogger's Contract

Acknowledging that blogging is a legitimate and authentic form of journalistic publication, student and teacher bloggers must adhere to essential principles of ethics. The free exchange and publication of information can help people in important ways. At the same time information can also harm people either intentionally or unintentionally.

Being a responsible participant in **the great online conversation**, I pledge that I will use information to:

- Honestly and joyously express the truth, and that if challenged, I will be able to prove that what I write or say is true,
- Always treat all people with respect. I will never use information to cause harm or appear to cause harm to any person or group of people, and
- Respect and protect information tools and that I will neither do any harm to a computer system, network, software, or other person's information; nor will I allow others to do harm to a computer system, network, software, or other person's information.
- I will always be accountable for the information that I produce and publish, willing and able to defend my information or acknowledge when I have made a mistake and fix it.

Teacher

Student

Chimacum School District

I hereby grant permission to the Chimacum School District Supervising Teacher to publish my original work* on the World Wide Web or to other electronic media. I understand that said publication might include a change of formatting that is appropriate for the media. I further understand that once published, other network users unknown to the Chimacum Schools will be able to access and obtain my work.

Please publish my original work with the following attached: (Circle and supply info.)

My first name and last initial _____

My initials only _____

Anonymous

My picture may be included? **YES** **NO**

Do you want the following statement appended to your work?

Copyright 2009-10. Links to this site or quotations from this work must acknowledge (Student's name) _____ as author/creator and that the

author reserves all rights to his/her work. **YES** **NO**

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian's signature _____

Date _____

***original work** means that it is of your own creation and not plagiarized. If you have included any copy-written pictures and/or text, you must give credit where credit is due.

**Chimacum School District
Informed Consent Agreement
for the Ethical use of the Internet**

- I agree to use the Internet as a learning tool for conducting school approved research projects.
- I agree to identify the staff member who has approved my project and the topic or question I am researching.
- If in my research I find myself in an inappropriate site or a site that may be offensive to others, I agree to inform my teacher and immediately exit it.
- I agree not to interfere with other people's files or work on the computer.
- I agree to use a computer in ways that show consideration and respect to other people.
- I agree not to use or copy software for which I have not paid.
- I agree not to use the Internet for profit.
- When using the Internet for email, I agree to:
 - ★ never give out my last name, phone number, or address
 - ★ never arrange to meet anyone in person that I have met via the Internet/email.

I, _____, now understand the expectations for school use of
(Student's Name)

The Internet and agree to follow the guidelines written above.

I participated in an Internet instructional lesson with _____
(Staff Member's Name)

on _____.
(Date)

I agree to give up my Internet/computer privileges if I don't follow the rules stated in this agreement.

Consequences:

- A. Loss of privileges – short term, long term, or permanently.
- B. Written student plan with parent and principal signature.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Teacher Signature

Date

A new agreement must be signed by each user of the Internet at the beginning of each school year and kept on file.

CHIMACUM MIDDLE SCHOOL'S

Student Lab Safety Contract

General Guidelines

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the laboratory.
2. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. If you do not understand a direction or part of a procedure, ask the instructor before proceeding.
3. When first entering a science room, do not touch any equipment, chemicals, or other materials in the laboratory area until you are instructed to do so.
4. Keep hands away from face, eyes, mouth and body while using chemicals or preserved specimens. Wash your hands with soap and water after performing all experiments. Clean (with detergent), rinse, and wipe dry all work surfaces (including the sink) and apparatus at the end of the experiment. Return all equipment clean and in working order to the proper storage area.
5. Never return unused chemicals to their original containers.
6. When transferring reagents from one container to another, hold the containers away from your body.
7. Never remove chemicals or other materials from the laboratory area.
8. Carry glass tubing, especially long pieces, in a vertical position to minimize the likelihood of breakage and injury.
9. Never handle broken glass with your bare hands. Use a brush and dustpan to clean up broken glass. Place broken or waste glassware in the designated glass disposal container.
10. When removing an electrical plug from its socket, grasp the plug, not the electrical cord. Hands must be completely dry before touching an electrical switch, plug, or outlet.
11. Examine glassware before each use. Never use chipped or cracked glassware. Never use dirty glassware.
12. Report damaged electrical equipment immediately. Look for things such as frayed cords, exposed wires, and loose connections. Do not use damaged electrical equipment.
13. If you do not understand how to use a piece of equipment, ask the instructor for help.
14. Do not immerse hot glassware in cold water; it may shatter.
15. Heated metals and glass remain very hot for a long time. They should be set aside to cool and picked up with caution. Use tongs or heat-protective gloves if necessary.
16. Never look into a container that is being heated.
17. Do not place hot apparatus directly on the laboratory desk. Always use an insulating pad. Allow plenty of time for hot apparatus to cool before touching it.

Agreement

I, _____ (student's name) have read and agree to follow all of the safety rules set forth in this contract. I realize that I must obey these rules to insure my own safety, and that of my fellow students and instructors. I will cooperate to the fullest extent with my instructor and fellow students to maintain a safe lab environment. I will also closely follow the oral and written instructions provided by the instructor. I am aware that any violation of this safety contract that results in unsafe conduct in the laboratory or misbehavior on my part, may result in being removed from the laboratory and receiving a failing grade.

Student Signature

Parent's Signature

Date _____

FIVE POINT NOTEBOOK SCORING RUBRIC

5 Points - (a WOW product)

- all of the requirements are evident and EXCEEDED
- the product is VERY neatly done and EXTREMELY well organized
- the product shows LOTS of creativity and is colorfully illustrated
- completed on time

4 Points - (What is EXPECTED)

- all of the requirements are evident and EXCEEDED
- the product is VERY neatly done and EXTREMELY well organized
- the product shows LOTS of creativity and is colorfully illustrated
- completed on time

3 Points - (Almost What is EXPECTED)

- the requirements are evident (maybe 1 or 2 are missing)
- the product is neatly done and organized
- the product shows some creativity and is illustrated
- completed on time

2 Points - (Sort of What is EXPECTED)

- the requirements are evident (maybe 3 or 4 are missing)
- the product is done and sort of organized
- the product shows little creativity and is illustrated
- completed on time

1 Point - (Two or More parts is missing)

- MANY of the requirements are NOT PRESENT
- the product is VERY POORLY done and POORLY organized
- the product shows little TO NO creativity and THE illustrations IS POORLY DONE
- completed on time

0 Points - (Does not meet Standards)

- Unscorable or no product