**Mrs. Litchfield’s Science and Math Class 2017-2018**

**Grading**

*Small Items:* Homework/Simple Solutions - 40%

*Big Items:* Quizzes/Tests/Projects - 60%

**Homework Policy:**

Students are expected to come to class with homework COMPLETED. If homework is not complete, it will be a missing/late assignment. (See handbook for Missing/Late Assignments). Before turning in the homework, I will always allow the class as a whole to ask up to 5 questions that we can go over together. I encourage students to come see me before the assignment is due in the morning, afterschool, or during enrichment or special periods if they have more than a couple of questions on the homework. I always try to allow work time in class so that I am available for questions then as well.

**Math Test Corrections:**

I will allow students who complete test corrections to earn back half of the points that they missed on the test. Completing test corrections is optional and the students hold themselves accountable. Students will have 1 week to make corrections once the test has been returned. To ensure that students fully understand their mistakes, the must show all re-done work.

**Science Test Corrections:**

For science, I allow students the opportunity to do test corrections. They have 1 week from the date that tests are passed back to complete corrections. The test correction grade will go into an average of all test correction grades for that quarter and will be factored in as 1 test score. Again, completing test corrections is optional and the students hold themselves accountable.

**Textbooks and Policy:**

*Science* – We have adopted a new curriculum this year, Fusion Science! Fusion is geared towards grades 6-8 with individual books for each unit. In order to cut costs for families, I have created a way to book share between grades. Many grades cover the same unit or topic, but will study different chapters. Instead of buying three times the books and only covering a portion of each unit for each grade, we have ordered sets that the students will share between grades. With this being said, these worktexts will be treated as if they are text books. Damage to the book (other than minor wear and tear or writing and working in the lesson that is currently being covered) is considered damage to another student’s text book, and will result in penalty or will be required to purchase another workbook.

*Math* – We have decided to eliminate the practice workbooks and note taking guides for this year, but have adopted Simple Solutions Mathematics for grades 6, 7, and 8. Simple Solutions Mathematics is a wonderful, daily math workbook that improves math retention and provides consistent practice of concepts. Simple Solution books are workbooks and are intended for students to work in. Each student will have their own.

**Algebra Placement Exam for Heritage:**

At the end of each school year, Heritage sends an Algebra placement exam to our school for the 8th graders to take in order to see if they can test out of Algebra I. The exam is graded and placement is determined by Heritage staff, we just administer the test in our building. As of this year, all 8th graders will be strongly encouraged to take the exam, especially if they will be attending Heritage. A notice about the test will be put in the weekly newsletter when the time arrives.

**Science Fair Dates (as of November 1st):**

February 16, 2018 – Student Project Registration

(All Divisions) On the SEFI web site, include: *address, phone, grade, date of birth, project title,* and *category.*

(Junior Division - 6th-8th) In addition to the items above, complete the *research plan* and *abstract*  
  
February 23, 2018 – Deadline for payment of fair project registration fees. Payment details to be determined.

March 3, 2018 – 2018 NEIRSEF Regional Fair

March 24, 2018 – Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair, Indianapolis, IN

May 13-18, 2018 – Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, Pittsburgh, PA