

Parents and Students,

Welcome back to school! I am excited to start the school year off with each of you! For the new students and parents that Hessen Cassel gained over the summer, as well as the students and parents of our incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade class, I welcome you to my science and math class! We have many fun things planned for this school year. I am excited to get to know each of you!

There have been a few tweaks that I made to my classroom procedures and expectations, so please be sure to check them out below. If there are any questions, comments, concerns, important information, etc. that you would like to share with me, please do not hesitate to email me at [tlitchfield@stjoehc.org](mailto:tlitchfield@stjoehc.org).

Here's to a great school year!

Mrs. Tori Litchfield

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## Classroom Hours:

My classroom door will be open by 7:15 each morning. Students are more than welcome to stop by in the mornings from 7:15-7:35 to discuss any homework questions. The only exception to this time is on Thursdays when I have gym supervision duty.

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## Homework Policy:

For both science and math, students are expected to come to class with homework COMPLETED. If homework is not complete, it will be considered a missing assignment or incomplete. (See handbook for Missing/Late Assignments)

If there are questions, please set up a time to meet with me BEFORE the assignment is due during the times outlined in the classroom hours section. Please recognize and observe the designated times to ask questions.

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## Test Corrections:

For both math and science, I will allow students to complete test corrections. Corrections are **optional** and will always be due 1 week from the date that the quiz/test is passed back. I will write the due dates of test corrections for each grade on the homework board and keep them up all week as a reminder. It is up to the student to decide if they will complete test corrections or not. Half credit will be given for any corrections that are made and the score will be changed.

\*Corrections for science MUST be done in a colored ink pen to be acknowledged as corrected. Please do not erase or change answers or do any corrections in pencil.

\*Corrections for math MUST be done on the correction form and attached to the original test with ALL re-work shown to be acknowledged as corrected.

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## Science:

Textbooks: Our Science books come from the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Fusion Science worktext series. The worktexts are broken down into concept modules (A-K) covering life science, physical science, earth space science, and engineering technology. In addition to the textbook, I will be supplementing content from many other resources to make sure that then students have the best opportunity to meet the Indiana science standards. We also will use a monthly Scholastics Science World magazine.



### Course Work:

**Homework (25%):** Each science unit will include notes, interactive activities, homework worksheets, and labs that students will keep in their interactive notebooks. All of these activities will be counted as homework grades. The interactive notebooks are a tool used for students to stay organized and more engaged in the science classroom. (I will provide the materials needed to complete the interactive notebooks such as scissors, markers, crayons, colored pencils, etc. but if your student would like to bring their own utensils, that is fine too!) There also will be random completion grades for notebooks, so please be sure that your child has a notebook or a binder to use as their interactive notebook.

**Quizzes (35%):** Quizzes or pop quizzes related to lesson content may occur occasionally. These can be corrected for  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit back to the original score. All test corrections due 1 week after the quiz is passed back.

**Tests (40%):** End of Unit Tests will be given after each unit. These can be corrected for  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit back to the original score. All test corrections are due 1 week after the test is passed back. We also will be taking cumulative/benchmark assessments after a number of units as review. These are similar to finals but may not always be given as ends of semesters.

**Corrections:** Quiz and Test Corrections will be allowed as long as the procedure for corrections is followed. For science, corrections must be done in PEN, not pencil. Answers should not be erased from the original test. Half credit will be given to correct corrections and added back to quiz/test score.

Research and Writing: We also will be trying to incorporate research and writing assignments throughout the year that may be covered between both mine and/or Mrs. Nichter's class.

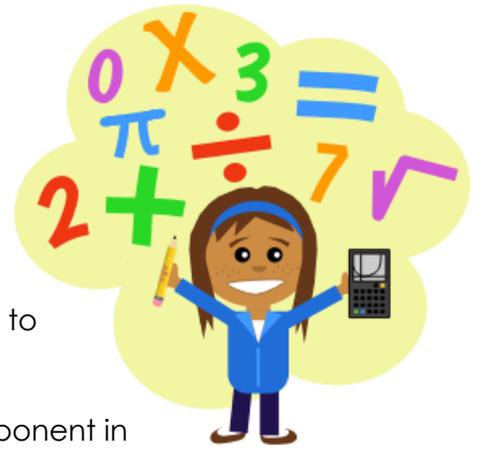
Lab Expectations: In addition to our coursework, we will lab stations where students will be required to collect and analyze their own data. During these activities, students are expected to follow all lab rules and guidelines that we will discuss and go over in class.

Projects: Throughout the year, each grade may do 1-2 projects. I will be sure to let parents know of the timeline prior to the start of that unit if materials need to be gathered for your student. Projects usually include a physical model of some type and a presentation to the class.

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# Math:

Textbooks: Pearson enVision Math 2.0 is our new math book curriculum! This curriculum is PACKED with awesome resources and visual aids that go hand in hand with the lessons in the book. With the adoption of this new curriculum, we have dropped the daily simple solution workbooks for Jr. High. Sadly, there just is not enough time in a class period to fit in both series. I do still hope to spiral reviews every so often to get the repetition that simple solutions brought to our classrooms. If you would still like your student to work in a simple solutions book independently, please let me know.



With our new math series, we were able to purchase an online component in addition to our paperback workbooks. Each student will have a username and password where they will be able to access content online. There is SO MUCH online!! As parents, I want you to know what resources are available online and how you can access them at home. I will be sending home an informational letter with your student's login and passwords. They too will get copies.

**Website Link:** <https://www.pearsonrealize.com/community/>

**Some assignments may be done online and assigned as homework. Please let me know if there is not an internet source or device in your home so that I can make accommodations and run copies instead.**

## Course Work:

**Homework (25%):** Homework will either be assigned in the workbook or online. After each LESSON, there will be a short 5 question lesson quiz to check for understanding. Once the quiz has been completed, a remediation assignment will be assigned based on student performance. Even 100% quizzes will still be given an assignment to complete. These assignments can be downloaded online once the quiz is finished and completed.

**Quizzes (35%):** Mid Topic Assessments (middle of the unit quizzes) will be given each unit. These may be taken online or as paper quizzes and can be corrected for  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit back to the original score. All corrections are due 1 week after quizzes are passed back.

**Tests (40%):** Topic/Performance Assessments (end of unit tests) will be given after each unit. These may be taken online or as paper tests and can be corrected for  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit back to the original score. All test corrections due 1 week after tests are passed back. We also will be taking cumulative/benchmark assessments after a number of units as review. These are similar to finals, but may not always be given as ends of semesters.

Corrections: Quiz and Test Corrections will be allowed as long as the procedure for corrections is followed. There is a correction form that must be picked up, and ALL rework must go on the form, not on the quiz or test. The form AND quiz/test (if taken on paper) must be turned in to Mrs. Litchfield. Half credit will be given to correct corrections and added back to quiz/test score.

Utensils and Calculator Policy: All math homework is to always be completed in PENCIL. Any homework that is completed in pen will not be accepted, and it will be returned to be re-done. Pens will only be used for occasional grading.

As for the use of calculators, I usually discourage the use of calculators until the second half of 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Even when calculators can be used, I still expect to see ALL work shown. Calculators should

be used as a tool to check answers, not to replace student work or independent thinking. I am very big on showing work and students will only receive partial credit if the necessary work is not shown.

Grades 7 and 8 may choose to purchase a scientific calculator or a graphing calculator. High schools recommend purchasing a TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator if you would like to plan ahead.

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### *Bishop Luers Placement Exam:*

In November, Luers will administer a test that is used for designation of scholarships as well as course placement for both Math and English classes. The exam is administered at Luers and is graded by their math department. All 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are considering attending Luers are strongly encouraged to take this exam. A notice about the date of the test will be put in the weekly newsletter when the time arrives.

### *Algebra Placement Exam for Heritage:*

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

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### *Science and Math Supply List*

Pencils (if mechanical – bring lead)

Colored Pens

Calculator (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> only)

Graph paper/sticky notes (8<sup>th</sup> only)

1 Science Notebook/Binder

Folder (If want to store papers)

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