6th Grade Science
**2020-2021 School Year**

**International Baccalaureate (IB) School: Middle Years Program (MYP)**

Brody Middle School is an IB School in the MYP. The MYP aims to develop active learners and internationally minded young people who can empathize with others and pursue lives of purpose and meaning. The program empowers students to inquire into a wide range of issues and ideas of significance locally, nationally and globally. The result is young people who are creative, critical and reflective thinkers. (Source: www.ibo.org)

**Course Description**

The sixth grade science curriculum integrates the study of matter and its interactions, Earth’s systems and the impact of human activity, and the structures and processes of organisms throughout the school year.  Students will explore the nature of science throughout the year by accomplishing inquiry based exercises, hands-on activities, performance tasks and group collaboration.

**Brody Science Skills**

Students should be engaged in one or more of the following eight “Brody Science Skills” in some capacity each day.

1. Asking questions and defining problems.

2. Developing and using models.

3. Planning and carrying out investigations.

4. Analyzing and interpreting data.

5. Using mathematics and computational thinking.

6. Developing explanations and designing solutions.

7. Engaging in argument from evidence.

8. Obtaining, evaluating and communicating information.

**Science Units**

1. Temperature and Particle Movement

2. Atomic Composition and Chemical Reactions

3. Thermal Energy

4. Earth’s Flow of Material and Plate Motions

5. Distribution of Natural Resources

6. Shaping of Earth’s Crust and Natural Hazards

7. Cell Theory and Body Organization

8. Heredity

**Grading Policy**

1. Letter grades, derived from the 4-point scale, will be based solely on achievement of 6th grade science standards.  Student participation, work completion, and ability to work with others will be reported separately using the ‘DMPS Citizenship and Employability Skills Rubric.’

2.  Scores will be based on a body of evidence.

3.  Achievement will be organized by standard/learning topic and reported as a scale score. Cross topic scale scores will be converted to a letter grade for the course.

4.  Students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency.

5.  Accommodations and modifications will be provided to students with special needs.

All courses in Canvas will have a built-in grade book where students can view feedback on each assignment a student completes. While Canvas is where students complete all of the coursework and where daily grades can be seen, **Infinite Campus is the official grade book where transcripts are generated. Infinite Campus will be updated regularly as students complete learning targets and whole topics.**

**Attendance**

* I expect to see you every day, on time, engaged and learning in our class.
* I miss you when you are gone and your learning is important.
* If you need to miss class, let me know and we will plan your make up work together.
* Stay healthy. Let me know if you are not feeling well or need something and I will do my best to help.
* You are important to me and you are an important part of our class.

**Digital Citizenship**

In the context of virtual learning, it is important all students use technology ethically and responsibly. Students are expected to communicate and participate respectfully with their teachers and classmates.

**Reminder:** If you wouldn’t do or say something in real life, don’t do it online either.

**Communication Policy**

If you have questions, the most ideal way to get help will be to reach out to your teacher. All teachers maintain regular working hours during the day throughout Des Moines Public Schools. Teachers can be reached through email, Canvas, SchoolCNXT, or Microsoft Teams Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 3:45 pm.  If this time frame does not work for you, please reach out and schedule a specific time to talk with your teacher. While students are welcome to contact teachers at any time, the teacher may not respond until the next school day if contacted after teacher office hours.