**![MC900029897[1]]()****Seventh Grade Science Syllabus**

**2016 to 2017**

Welcome to a new school year! I look forward to helping your young scientist grow!

**Mrs. Zacher’s Contact Information**

* I want to help our students ***succeed***. This includes ***communication*** with parents and guardians. You can also email me at any time at: *becky.zacher@rcsc.k12.in.us* or rebecca.zacher@rensselaerschools.org.
* I have many documents and all sorts of other information for you to view and download on my school website. You can access **my website** at [*http://beckyzacher.weebly.com*](http://beckyzacher.weebly.com). (You can find my contact information here as well!) Curriculum handouts and reading assignments will be posted as needed.
* Another way I often communicate with students is through the app **Remind**. Directions are posted on the “Welcome and Contacts” page of my website. You can sign up for my Remind in two ways. One way is through text messaging. Text **@zachersci** to **81010**.(You can also sign up via email; check out the directions on my Weebly.)
* We will also use **Edmodo.com** quite often in class. This will be how I get other information out to your students quickly. Each class will have their own sign up code. Students will sign up in science class. **Ask your student about the parent code so you can follow along, too!**

**Class Expectations**

* I expect students to **follow the rules in the RCMS student handbook** as well as the responsibilities for my class. A link to the handbook is posted on my Weebly on the “General Classroom Resources Tab.”
* Students will be working to **create classroom rules**. However, the following **“responsibilities”** are also **posted in my room**:
* Be on time and prepared.
* Complete your own work and do it well.
* Do what the teacher asks of you the FIRST time you are asked.
* Have R-E-S-P-E-C-T: for each other, for the room, for the furniture and equipment.
* Be nice! Help each other. Don’t say mean things.
* There are **lab and investigation specific guidelines** that will be reviewed and reinforced as needed. These safety guidelines may include wearing goggles, not eating or drinking in class, and specific clean up rules for materials used.
* I will be using a **behavior log** for any student who is unprepared, has missing work, or is a class disruption, etc. This is a way to keep track and document behavior. After one or more warnings disciplinary action will occur. Discipline will result in the form of going to the reset room or even a detention and will of course depend on the situation. I will contact you if discipline issues such as these come up.

**Class Procedures and Routines**

* As noted in class responsibilities, I expect students to be **on time and prepared with their materials**. The daily “do now” and/or “warm up” will be posted in the front of the classroom each day, along with the agenda and any homework. This can information can be found on the “**Daily Agenda**” page of my Weebly.

**Seventh Grade Science Curriculum and Standards**

* You can download a set of **standards** from my website. Also, a complete set of 7th grade science standards and benchmarks can be found at <http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/standards/science/2010-Science-Grade07.pdf>*.* Content standards start on page 7. Students have a downloaded copy in Notability.
* Students will study three main topics in science**: Earth Science, Life Science, and Physical Science**. Each topic is split into the following units, which depending on timing, might be combined:
* Weathering and Erosion
* Soil
* Plate Tectonics and Volcanoes
* Rocks and Minerals
* Fossils and Geologic Time
* Organs and Body Systems
* Cell Biology
* Fertilization and Development
* Energy and Work
* Force and Motion

**Assessments and Assignments**

* Pretests will be used to assess what students know before a new unit begins. (This will NOT affect their final grades.) At end of a unit, a post-test will be given to see the growth students have made over the course of the unit. (Students WILL earn a grade for their post-test.) A study guide is will be provided for all tests.
* Traditional quizzes, as well as, investigations, informal individual and group assessments, lab conclusions and reflections, projects and sometimes worksheets all referring back to the current unit’s “Big Idea” are used as an ongoing assessment as well.

**Textbooks, Binders, and Notebooks**

* Part of the focus in the curriculum **is literacy**. Many different resources will be used, including traditional textbooks that do not leave the room. However, most of the time, students will download a PDF of the text into the Notability app.
* **Science binders** are 1-inch plastic binders with ***5 dividers*** that students keep in the classroom to organize and store anything on paper, such as important class information, handouts and notes, vocabulary, and graded work. ***Students may take them home to show off, study or organize at ANY time, but do need bring them back the very next day.***
* Students need to ***keep graded work*** to look back at to study for a test, or in the case of a missed grade on my part, etc. The best place keep graded work is the science binder. Students should also keep all digital assignments. A great way to do this is keeping Notability backed up in Google Drive.
* Students will also be using **science notebooks** as part of the curriculum this year. Notebooks will be used for recording lab investigations and taking notes. This year, students voted to either use a spiral notebook or loose-leaf papers kept in their binders; we will also use the Notability app on iPads.

**Assignment and Homework Policy**

* Students are expected to complete ALL assignments**. Not turning in work is NOT an option.** All work is usually due next school day unless a specific due date is given. Please see chapter 3, section 1 (page 17) in the RCMS Student Handbook for more details.
* I believe **not turning in work is a behavior**, not a measure of what students know. Students will receive disciplinary action for not turning in work. But they will NEVER get points or percentages removed from their work. I want to know what they know. However, with the exception of tests, all missing grades turn into a “zero” at the end of each quarter.
* Sometimes I will ask students **to redo or make corrections** to an assignment or test. All redo’s and corrections will need to be returned in a timely manner in order to assess a student’s understanding. I will often give a new due date in this case.
* Students are responsible for **keeping track of their assignments, homework, projects and due dates**. A daily agenda is available on my Weebly; it is what I post in the front of the room each day. I do recommend students use a plan book, either traditional or as an app.
* In addition, students are expected to **turn in their OWN work**. I am not assessing them on other people’s work. Any and all plagiarism is NOT tolerated and will be dealt with according to the RCMS academic Honesty Policy in the handbook. Please see chapter 3, section 6 (page 24) in the RCMS Student Handbook for more details.

**Grading Scale**

RCMS uses a common grading scale. Their grade is a reflection of what they know.

Grade Score Grade Score Grade Score

A+ 100 (+) B 83-86% C- 70-72%

A 95-99% B- 80-82% D+ 67-69%

A- 90-94% C+ 77-79% D 63-66%

B+ 87-89% C 73-76% D- 60-62%

 F 59(-)

As always, please contact me at any time with questions, concerns and suggestions!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Becky Zacher

LOOK ON THE NEXT PAGE!!! LOOK ON THE NEXT PAGE!!! LOOK ON THE NEXT PAGE!!!

P.S. Parents and guardians, **I have an assignment for YOU**. But don’t worry, it’s an easy one (: If at all possible, this **homework is due by Tuesday, August 23, 2016** which is the same day that the Syllabus Signature Form is due.

* ***Please write me a letter or an email that describes your child. (If writing a letter, please put in a sealed envelope.) Include anything that you would like me to know about your child, his or her needs, your goals, etc. Brag about their strengths and tell me your concerns. If there is anything you would rather share or ask me in person, we can certainly set up a conference.***

***Please sign and return ONLY this page. Keep the other pages for your records.***

**Syllabus Signature Form**

**SCHOOL YEAR: 2016 to 2017**

Please **fill out** and **return this page ONLY** to MRS. ZACHER. Thank you!

 *Due: Tuesday, August 23, 2016*

* I have read and discussed the syllabus with my student.
* I understand Mrs. Zachers’s classroom procedures and curriculum.
* If I have questions, I will contact Mrs. Zacher.

Student’s class period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name(s) (please print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian(s) signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Throughout the year, I take pictures to document projects and labs, etc. **May I post a picture of your child on the 7th grade science website?** It may also be used for the school year book. These are the only places the pictures will be used. No names will be used on my Weebly.

Circle one: YES NO \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (parents(s) please initials