

Dear Parents and Students,

July 31, 2009

I am very excited about the year upon which we are about to embark! I know it is going to be a tremendous year of growth for our students. I would like to share some information with you now that will help get our year started.

First, a little bit about me. I received my B.A. in Psychology from The Ohio State University and my Elementary Education certification from Ashland University, also in Ohio. I taught middle school for 5 years and 5th grade for 3 years in public schools before staying home to raise my 2 children, Jake (6) and Olivia (4). For the past 5 years, I have been working at Covenant Christian Academy teaching science and math to elementary, intermediate, and middle school students. Throughout my entire teaching career, I have also tutored numerous students, ranging in age and ability level from elementary to high school, in all academic areas. I truly love teaching children and helping them in their thirst for knowledge and in making sense of the world in which they live.

Curriculum: For science, we will be using Apologia's Exploring Creation with Botany by Jeannie Fulbright. This has proven to be a great series for us. The book is written in a very student-friendly manner, so the students are able to work relatively independently throughout the book. This should truly challenge the students and increase their knowledge of God's creation.

Supplies needed for science:

- A 3-ring binder
- 5 dividers
- Loose-leaf paper
- Pencils
- Composition notebook for writing down homework (can also be used in other classes)
- From time to time, I will also ask the students to bring in items for labs/projects during class

Grades: Students will receive grades based on homework, classwork, quizzes, tests, and special projects. They will also receive a notebook grade based on how well they keep their science notebook organized (we will work on this throughout the year). Since we will be covering a chapter approximately every 2 weeks, we will not have a test for every chapter. Instead, we will have tests that cover several concepts at a time. Quizzes will be given more intermittently to assess knowledge gained over specific material within the chapters. There will be homework given each week, and it is critical that this homework is completed and brought back to class each Monday. Since we have to move through the curriculum fairly quickly, it is essential that students are prepared when they arrive for class.

Parent responsibilities: As the parent of an upper elementary child, I can imagine that you are beginning to appreciate the independent abilities of your child. I know I will! Please continue to foster that sense of independence in your child. It will serve them well. As we move throughout the year, please also be involved in your child's science class, work, notebook, etc. I know you will have much to offer to supplement the information we will cover in class. Check to see that homework is completed each week and in the notebook ready to be brought back to school. Also, please help your child in preparing for quizzes, tests, and special projects. You know best how to help them in this regard and how best they need to study and prepare.

If you have any questions at all regarding any information contained in this letter or as the year progresses, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your child this year!

Sincerely,

Tia Fenoff