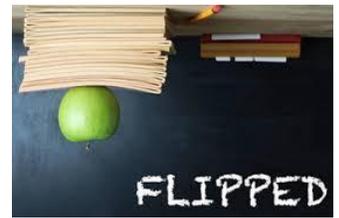


Dear Parents,

I am so excited for your child to be a part of my science class this year!

I will say though, that this year will be a little different than you or your child may be used to. I will be using a teaching model known as the “flipped classroom” and “project based learning”.



What is a “flipped classroom”? In short, a “flipped classroom” switches around the traditional order of teaching with the purpose of creating a more in depth and supportive environment in the classroom where the teacher is present and able to help students. It allows for students to receive a more individualized science education where my actual face-to-face time with them is being used effectively. This results in them understanding the content at a higher and deeper level than before. In addition, it challenges students to learn how to take charge of their learning and manage their time, becoming resourceful learners. Lastly, it provides time for more “Higher-Order Thinking” discussion and questioning during class time, helping students to become reflective communicators and to think more deeply about the subject.

What does a “flipped classroom” require of you as a parent?

The “flipped classroom” enables you as a parent to be more involved in your student’s science education. Most parents tend to agree that they do not remember much from their middle school science classes and do not feel they can support or help their student at all when they are home doing homework. However, with the “flipped classroom”, there are several ways you can assist your student:

1. Provide your student with a quiet place to watch the lecture video each night. If internet access is not available, provide your student with the time to stay after school to watch the video in the school library or my classroom. Students may also use SMART LUNCH to view lecture videos.
2. Ask your student questions about what they watched and have them read their notes out loud to you.
3. Read their notes yourself to make sure it sounds complete and make sense.
4. Read the questions and answers I asked to see if they can answer them.
5. Encourage them to take their time while watching the videos, which means they pause, rewind, or re-watch portions of the video when the teaching is going too fast or when students need a minute to make sense of what was taught.
6. Watch the videos with them so you can learn along with them and help them when it comes to doing regular practice at home the night before a test!

What does a “flipped classroom” require of your student?

A “flipped classroom” does not change the fact that students should go home and do science homework for 30 each night. They are now doing a different type of science homework. They simply watch a video, take notes, and answer higher-order thinking skills. Students are expected to come to class prepared each day with a background of knowledge, ready to learn it better, deeper, and faster. Students are not expected a full mastery of the content before they arrive in class, although many students will.

The “flipped classroom” requires your student to take responsibility for their learning in several ways:

1. Students must plan time to watch the video when they are fully awake and able to make connections between content.(Before 9 pm is highly suggested)
2. Students must take initiative to re-watch videos they need to see again.
3. Students must make sure if they are absent, they still watch the required videos and come to class prepared.
4. Students must make sure that they take initiative to communicate with me either online or in person if there are issues with watching the videos. This includes coming and seeing me before school or during lunch to watch the videos before class begins as often as possible.

What if your student watches the videos every night but still does not understand the content?

Individualized or small group tutoring and support is still available for students before, during and after the school day. During that time, I can sit down with them and go over more examples and try to explain it in a different way.

If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at ahawks@wcpss.net . Thank you! I am looking forward to a great year!!!

Angela Hawks

Marvelous Marlins