

August 2013

Dear Students and Parents,

## Welcome to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science on the Bobcats Team!

This semester we will work hard and have fun learning about the plants, the animals, and the systems we encounter daily. I graduated from N.C. State University (GO WOLFPACK!) with a degree in Biology and entered into teaching through a training program for innovative STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) teachers. I have experience in university biological field research and lab work. I previously worked at a charter school, Wayne School of Engineering, in Goldsboro, N.C.

I have *high expectations* for *each of you students!* We have a lot to cover this year, including learning a new way of thought, which utilizes your skills as a new scientific thinker, including critical thinking skills, observational skills, and creative problem solving (*how high can you build a spaghetti tower?!*). Punctual attendance and participation is key in not only developing your knowledge of science and your world, but in developing the skills you need to be successful in middle school.

**Parents**, you can contact me by e-mail at [msamuels@wcpss.net](mailto:msamuels@wcpss.net), I will return your e-mail asap. You may also contact me at Carroll Middle, 919-881-1370, during morning hours or I will return your call when students are released in the afternoon.

We will have an online site to check in for missing class work or homework, via **Blackboard**. I am always happy to help students catch up on work before or after school, but it is your responsibility students to check our weekly class agenda for that work (we will discuss this in class).

Updates will also be sent periodically via e-mail regarding class activities, *please fill out the parent information sheet, on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade letter, so we can have easy contact this year!*

I'm honored to meet every student, what an exciting time!

Thanks,  
Mary Samuels  
[msamuels@wcpss.net](mailto:msamuels@wcpss.net)  
919-881-1370

- YOUR STUDENT RECEIVED A CLASS SYLLABUS; THEY WILL BE ADDING IT TO THEIR SCIENCE NOTEBOOKS, SO TAKE A LOOK BEFOREHAND!
- ON THE BACK OF THE SYLLABUS IS OUR SAFETY CONTRACT, PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN, YOUR STUDENT MUST RETURN TO DO LABS IN CLASS.