

# Go Gridley Grizzlies!



Mrs. Lisa Kist

6<sup>th</sup> VREP Lab

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Dear Student and Parent(s)/ Guardian,

Welcome to the 2012-2013 school year at Gridley Middle School. My name is Mrs. Kist and I am excited to be your Virtual Reality Education Pathfinders or VREP teacher. I know it always helps me to feel a little more comfortable with my teachers if I know a little bit about them, so I thought I would share a little bit about myself with you. I have been married to my husband Mr. Kist for 14 years and we have 2 little girls, ages 11 and 8. I graduated from the U of A with a BS in Elementary Education and I am currently working on my Masters in Science education. I have always loved kids and love working and teaching at Gridley!

The VREP program is new to Arizona and Gridley is proud to be the first school offering the class as a part of the regular school day. I encourage you to check out the VREP website at [www.vrep.org](http://www.vrep.org) to see what students in the program have been doing with this class. VREP is part of STEM education and allows students to take the information that they are learning in class and apply it in meaningful ways. I can't wait to see the wonderful things your student will be creating in 3D! Another helpful website is the site of the software we will be using in class [www.blender.org](http://www.blender.org). It is free online and can be downloaded easily if your student would also like on class projects at home.

This will be a year of amazing adventures and virtual explorations. During the year the sky is the limit for the things your student will learn and accomplish. Students will be expected to complete 2 projects a quarter, one that is based on an academic class and one that is a personal goal. I will be providing check points during the development of these projects and the tutorials they will be writing as they progress. Students that have completed projects at the end of the quarter will be asked to present their project to the class and local community members.

In order to have a successful school year, students are expected to follow all school rules along with our classroom rules and be prepared daily for class. Below is a list of our rules and expectations in our science classroom:

## **Classroom Expectations:**

⇒ Be on time to class and prepared to work

- Pencils, Flash Drive, Headphones, Paper and Agendas are necessary every day
- No Personal Grooming, No HATS!
- ⇒ Be respectful to the classroom, your teacher and classmates
  - Keep your hands and other objects to yourself
- ⇒ No food, gum, or drinks allowed unless stated by the teacher
- ⇒ Follow all class rules
- ⇒ Have Fun

### **Homework Policy:**

Students will often want to work on projects at home. The Software is available on line and is free to anyone with the correct computer configuration. Students will be required to write their progress and dates for their check points in their agendas daily. Late work will not be accepted. (This is a lesson in organization and planning for students) If a student is absent, they will need to meet with me to make sure they have the support to stay on track with their project.

### **VREP Notebooks:**

Students are required to have a large three Ring Binder, Flash Drive, page protectors, a highlighter and headphones. There is no book for this class. Online tutorials and the VREP student links are the main source for additional. The professional library in the classroom is currently under construction. We are looking for books that contain professional information on just about any subject to help student's research necessary information to complete their projects. Helpful subjects are: Physics, Biology, Anatomy, Animation, Modeling, Architecture, Optics, Lighting, any thing mechanically oriented and computer programming books. You can buy books on Blender online, however after reading through one I would suggest that students look through them before buying them.

Donations of Tissue, Dry erase markers, pencils, notebook paper, flash drives, head phones and page protectors happily accepted.

### **Grading Scale:**

A= 100-90%   B= 89-80%   C= 79-70%   D= 69-60%   F= 59% and below

### **Materials Needed for Social Studies:**

Pencils   Highlighter   Page Protectors

Loose – leaf paper   Flash Drive   3 Ring Binder

These rules and expectations were established to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment in the classroom. To facilitate class activities it is important that all of the rules and lab procedures are followed correctly.

VREP lab class is a time for discovery and we encourage all students to walk into class with inquiring minds and questions. I also invite parents to call me, Facebook me, email me or set up a time to come in and meet with the team if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year. I look forward to an exciting and fun filled year of learning and exploration!

Save the Date!! We will be having an open house Aug 16<sup>th</sup> at 5P.M. in the VREP Lab Rm 29 before the Gridley Open house from 6-7:00. Please come and see what all the excitement is about!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kist