

8th Grade Science

Course Syllabus

School Year 2016-2017

Gresham Middle School Teacher: Michelle Baker

Parent Conference Hours: MWF 9:45- 10:45 AM (please call 689-1430
for an appointment)

Email: michelle.baker@knoxschools.org

TEXTBOOK: Holt McDougal Integrated Science, Tennessee Standards Edition, 2009, and Tennessee Blueprint TCAP Coach.

DESCRIPTION:

This year, your child will engage in the study of chemistry (matter, the periodic table, and chemical reactions), forces (electromagnetism and gravity) and life science (biodiversity and adaptations)

GOAL:

Help increase the student's ability to interpret scientific information and construct an evidence-based response to questions in either a written or oral format.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

A one-subject spiral notebook, a box of colored pencils, notebook paper in a binder, pencils for class, and a school agenda (provided by the school),

EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated on the science standards for 8th Grade Science. Assessments will follow the completion of each standard and the type of assessment will be tailored toward each standard. Students will be able to use their Science Notebook for assessments as a tool of reference. It becomes a resource for organization and a good way to review the subject matter. Students will be notified of assessment times by the agenda posted in class.

Remediation on subject matter concepts can happen during homeroom time (8:00-8:30). I am usually available for limited periods after school as well. The form of remediation will be determined by the needs of the student. Responsibility for remediation is a dual approach from me as the teacher and from the student who knows his or her weaknesses best. I constantly urge students not to wait until the assessment to seek understanding of the concepts but see me before the assessment begins.

Knox County Schools Grading Scale

A 93-100

C 75-84

B 85-92

D 74-70

F Below 70

COURSE POLICIES

It is the responsibility of the student to complete make up work upon returning to school from an absence. They need to fill in their agenda for those missing days, and then report to the teacher to develop a time frame for work to be completed.

EXPECTATIONS:

My classroom rules:

1. Come to class prepared and get prepared for class, one main way is to get the agenda filled in first.
2. Participate in class, ask questions, answer questions, be part of the discussion.
3. Follow school rules as outlined in the agenda.
4. Communicate with the teacher. Let me know if there is a problem with the work, homework, or problems that might affect the class.

The school agenda will be used as the class starter every day. It will be the best way to find out what is happening in class and when important events like projects or assessments will be given.

A single subject spiral notebook will be used for science notes and other assignments. Along with the curriculum requirements we will work on a variety of note taking strategies, writing answers to questions with evidence cited from the text, and oral discussions of the topic using a protocol, to allow all opinions to be voiced.

Students are expected to complete their own assignments and to honestly complete tests and quizzes without aid from others. Students caught cheating, plagiarizing and copying from others will face disciplinary action.

It is my goal to help keep parents and students informed about classroom happenings, school policies or any other information. The student agenda is my primary way to keep students informed and it can be used to keep parents informed as well. I also use email.

VIDEO OR VIDEO CLIPS

Not every video will be shown during the year and some videos will only have segments shown.

- Disney's "Finding Nemo". Biodiversity standards are aligned to the viewing of this movie. Activities that promote these standards will be assigned.
- BBC EARTH "life". Shown in segments to help students with animal adaptations within their environment.
- "The Science of Disney Imagineering, Magnetism". Shown with Forces of Nature standard.
- "Mad Electricity". Shown with Forces of Nature standard.
- BBC "Prehistoric Planet". Shown with standards on Geologic Time and fossils.
- Other video segments come from approved Knox County sites and are used to help students understand difficult concepts.