

# Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

Welcome to 8th grade science class!

This year we will be exploring the Earth's Place in the Universe, Heredity, Biological Evolution, and Matter and Its Interactions! We will be creating different projects and doing exciting lab activities.

I am very excited for this upcoming year! I have established the following policies to ensure a safe and educational classroom.

We will follow the RAM code of conduct:

- R** - Respectful
- A** - Accountable
- M** - Motivated
- S** - Safe



## **Required Class Materials**

These materials will help you to stay organized and make your life in science easy:

- 1 Composition book
- Pens, pencils, eraser, highlighter, etc
- Folder with pockets



## **Science Class with Mrs. Ascanio:**

Mrs. Ascanio will:

- Post a daily agenda and objective
- Be available via email Monday through Friday, 7am - 5pm
- Do my best to be engaging and make learning science exciting and fun

Student expectations - Students will:

- Show up to class **on-time** and be ready to learn
- Check your email at least once a day
- Complete all activities and assignments
- Participate in class, ask questions, and contribute to the learning process
- Have fun learning science!

## **Class Structure:**

1. Attendance (5 minutes)
2. "Do Now" - Students will complete the "Do Now" for the day while Mrs. Ascanio is taking attendance.
3. Review Objectives and Agenda
4. Science Lesson
5. Independent student work
6. Lesson wrap-up and "Exit Slip"



## **Assignments & Grading**

I have high expectations for all my students. We will be using a competency based grading model this year. Types of assignments include:

- Investigations
- Journaling
- Note-taking
- Labs and Lab Reports
- Projects
- Formative Assessments
- Summative Assessments
- Performance Assessments



## **8th Grade Competencies and Standards**

We will cover the following competencies and standards this year:

### **Earth and Space Science:**

- Earth's Place in the Universe

### **Life Science:**

- Heredity
- Biological Evolution

### **Physical Science:**

- Matter and Its Interactions

### **Habits of Learning:**

- Self Direction
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Innovation

### **Science and Engineering Practices:**

- Ask Questions and Define Problems
- Developing and Using Models
- Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
- Analyzing and Interpreting Data
- Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking
- Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
- Engaging in Argument from Evidence
- Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information

## **Make- up Work**

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get the work that you missed. Copies of assignments, notes, etc. will be posted in the classroom each day.

## **Extra Help**

You should utilize your WIN Block to get any extra help you might need. If you have questions, concerns, etc. please let me know! You can email me, send me a message via Google Classroom, or we can set up a time to meet.



## **Science Laboratory Safety Contract**

**Seabrook Middle School**

**Mrs. Ascanio, 8th Grade Science Teacher**

In science class there will be hands-on learning opportunities. These are in the form of laboratory activities and projects. Many times you may use materials that necessitate the proper safety considerations. Safety is the top priority!! You must be aware of the safety rules and commit to following these rules in science class. Before participating in the laboratory activities, you and a parent or guardian must sign this contract and return it to your teacher no later than September 7.

### **Laboratory Safety Rules**

1. Students will not perform unapproved experiments or use any equipment without prior instruction. Read, listen to, and follow all of the instructions given by the teacher. If you have questions, ask!
2. Students are not allowed in the supply room without permission. Students will not work on experiments when the teacher is not present.
3. Students will wear eye protection when needed.
4. Students will clean messes appropriately before leaving the classroom. Dispose of lab materials per the teacher's direction.
5. Students will wear proper clothing during experiments. No open toed shoes and no dangling jewelry are allowed. Long hair should be tied back.
6. Students will not eat, drink, or chew gum in the lab.
7. Students will not take materials from the lab without teacher permission.
8. Students will not horseplay or play practical jokes in the lab.
9. Students will keep their lab area free from non-laboratory materials.
10. Students will immediately let the teacher know about accidents, spills, and injuries.

**Remember: Always Safety First!**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

### **Parent/Guardian Preferred Method of contact:**

Phone/Email/Other      Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

I want you to have a fun, exciting and educational school year! I ask in return that you come to class prepared and put effort into all you do. Be responsible and respectful of yourself, others, teachers and the classroom. If you do, we will have a fantastic year!

Thank you!

**Mrs. Ascanio**