

Welcome to Eighth Grade Science
Mr. Costea

Introduction:

The purpose of this course is to enable students to gain a better understanding of the many topics in Earth, Life, and the Physical Sciences. Science is very important in the world today and will become much more important in the future. It is my hope that during the course of the year your knowledge of science will increase and you will develop an appreciation for the many ways science is related to you.

General Course Information/ Rules Procedures

1. Please bring the following to class everyday:

- a. Completed assignments (including any make-up work)
- b. Science Notebook (1" 3 ring binder with paper)
- c. Pencils (mechanical is fine)
- d. Highlighter
- e. A Good Attitude!!

* Throughout the year, students may be asked to bring in additional materials for lab activities*

2. The following are behaviors which you will be held accountable for.

- a. Be here – attendance is extremely important
- b. Be on time.
- c. Be prepared.
- d. Respect yourself and others.
- e. Be on task.
- f. Follow directions.
- g. Be cooperative.
- h. No candy, gum, or beverages in class.
- i. Respect the policies and procedures given in class and the handbook for your optimum safety, learning, and fun.

3. In class, you are expected to pay attention, participate in class activities, discussions, and take notes when information is being presented. You may expect materials from lectures, labs, films, etc... to show up on tests and quizzes.

4. You will be expected to keep your area clean and in good repair. If there is a problem with your workspace or equipment, let me know before continuing with your project or class.

5. Safety in the lab is a REQUIREMENT. In order to participate in any laboratory activities, you must pass the Laboratory Safety Test covering lab safety with a score of 90% or better, and you must sign the Safety Contract. Upon passing the safety test and signing the contract, you will be issued a Laboratory License. Your license will allow for 3 warning points. If you earn more than three points you will not be permitted to participate in the next lab activity. Furthermore, you will not earn any points for the lab either. Please note that students are required to pay for equipment they break (accidental or on purpose).

6. You will be given six hall passes per nine-week grading period. You may leave the classroom to use the restroom, get a drink of water, or go to the locker a maximum of six times per nine-weeks. At the end of each grading period, any unused tickets may be turned back in for extra credit points. If you must leave after your tickets are used you will be given a lunch detention. Make sure you use your tickets wisely.

7. Cell phones and other electronic devices (MP3, I-Pods, hand-held games, etc...) are not permitted in the classroom.

Consequences

1. First Offense – verbal warning or time out from class or lab activity.

Cell Phone/Electronics – confiscate, student may pick up at end of day.

2. Second Offense – conference with student as well as loss of participation in lab activity or class.

Also

points for the lab activity will be lost.

Cell Phone/Electronics – confiscate, and give to the assistant principle.

3. Third Offense – lunch detention

Cell Phone/Electronic – confiscate and give to the principle with a conduct referral and call home to parents.

4. Fourth Offense – conduct referral / parents notified

Homework, Daily Work, Make-Up Work, and Absences (Procedures)

1. All assignments must be completed in pencil, blue/black ink and must contain the following information:

a. Student's full name (first and last)

b. Class Period

c. Assignment/ title (if not provided)

2. Any daily work or make-up work will be turned into the teacher directly. If an assignment is late due to an absence or turning the assignment in late, the student will need to indicate this and the date of the absence, or original due date, in writing on the assignment. Students are responsible for picking up the assignments on the day of his/her return. All make up assignments are due 48 hours after they have been picked up to receive full credit. Each day as assignment is late the point value will decrease.

3. When homework is assigned in class, it is expected to be completed. Homework will be checked on a regular basis. Homework will count as a single grade.

Grading Policy

Grading will be administered on a point system. Students will receive a point value on every graded assignment. Points accumulated will be given a letter grade. Grading scale is as follows:

92 – 100 A

83 – 91 B

74 – 82 C

65 – 73 D

64 – 0 F

Tests and Projects

Projects can be assigned anytime during a unit. Tests will be given usually at the end of a chapter or unit and the nine-weeks. It is possible that a project may replace a test as the final evaluation in some units. Both will cover material from notes, labs discussions, and any other place where information is presented in class. Test dates will be given at least one week in advance. Tests are worth three grades.

Quizzes

There will usually be one quiz a week, which will be announced no later than the day before. Quizzes cover homework, labs, lectures, handouts, etc... Quizzes are designed to help prepare you for the test and are to help you assess what you know and still need to know before the unit evaluation. Quizzes are worth two grades.

Labs

We will conduct many labs in this class. Data papers will be collected and students will be required to compose a write up that analyzes the material covered. Students will be graded in labs orally, cooperation, and in their written work.

Science Binder

Each student is expected to keep a science folder. You will not be assigned a book this year; the folder will take its place. These folders will be graded on a regular basis. The folders are to be kept neat and in order. You are required to have a 1 inch three ringed binder with pockets. Each binder should have the following sections divided and labeled:

- a. notes
- b. homework
- c. labs
- d. quizzes and tests

Extra Credit

The teacher will assign all extra credit. It is expected that you give learning 100% and not make extra credit a crutch for a grade. The extra credit in class can be done once a week for 5 points of extra credit and a possible 45 points of extra credit for the nine-week grading period.

Option #1- Make a poster of a Career: a. Name of the career b. Description of career, educational requirements for that career (2 books available: Medical Sciences and Space Science)

Option #2- Pick a section from a book (Biodiversity/The Water Cycle) and outline it.

Option #3- Guided reading that I assign for the week.

Cheating

Cheating or copying will not be tolerated in this class. If a student is caught cheating on homework, quizzes, or tests by me or another teacher they will receive the following consequences:

* First Offence – automatic “0” on whatever the student is caught cheating on.

Administration will be notified.

* Second Offence – failure for the grading period and administration and parents will be notified.

I feel that an open line of communication between parents and teachers is extremely important. With busy schedules and various times of availability, it is not always easy to stay in contact. As a result, I am providing my school email address: costeab@minerva.sparcc.org. If this is a good way to reach you as well, please provide me with your email address below or email me directly. If not, please feel free to contact me at school 330-868-4497. You can also check the Minerva Middle School Website, http://www.mlsl.sparcc.org/school_home.aspx?schoolID=2 . At this site, you can search my name and find my personal webpage containing dates on homework, quizzes, tests, etc..., as well as any news for the class or to keep up-to-date on your student’s progress and grade in class.

Please read through the Classroom Management Plan and the Science Safety Contract with your student. After you have read the plan together please sign and date on the correct lines. If you have any questions or concerns about the Classroom Management Plan or anything else, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to a great year!

Mr. Brian Costea

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent Email address _____