Ms. Smart’s 8th Grade Science!

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**Science as Inquiry:**

In our class traditional laboratory experiences provide opportunities to demonstrate how science is constant, historic, probabilistic, and replicable. Although there are no fixed steps that all scientists follow, scientific investigations usually involve collections of relevant evidence, the use of logical reasoning, the application of imagination to devise hypotheses, and explanations to make sense of collected evidence. Student engagement in scientific investigation provides background for understanding the nature of scientific inquiry. In addition, the science process skills necessary for inquiry are acquired through active experience. The process skills support development of reasoning and problem-solving ability and are the core of scientific methodologies. Some topics discussed throughout the year are the Earth’s History, Chemistry, Biology, and the Earth’s Waters. *(NC 8th Grade Essential Standards)*

**Responsibilities:**

* It is **YOUR** responsibility to talk to the teacher and check the class website to see what assignments you missed.
* It is **YOUR** responsibility to make up missed work and hand in what you owe in a timely fashion. (See Ms. Smart regarding due dates if you have any additional concerns).
* It is **YOUR** responsibility to collect any missed handouts or notes from the teacher when you are absent. I will not hunt you down to give them to you, you must remember to get them.
* It is **YOUR** responsibility to read, follow, and abide by the CMS Student’s Rights and Responsibilities handbook.

**Expectations:**

1. Always have respect for everyone and do not interfere with the learning of others
2. Come to class on time prepared with all necessary materials
3. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak
4. Stay in your seat unless you have permission to do otherwise
5. Handle all lab equipment, experiments, and tools properly, abiding by the lab safety rules.
6. Follow all team, school, and system rules and regulations

**Notebooks:**

Students should bring their science notebooks and other classroom materials to class EVERYDAY unless otherwise instructed. Students will compile an interactive science portfolio modeling all their assignments within the year. A table of contents should ALWAYS be kept and updated DAILY. The notebook should serve as a study guide and resource for students if questions or concerns arise. The teacher will conduct notebook quizzes upon her discretion.

**Greek and Latin Quizzes (G/L):**

Students will be issued a Greek and Latin pamphlet at the beginning of each quarter that they will be quizzed on. **GREEK AND LATIN QUIZZES WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE FRIDAY OF EVERY OTHER WEEK UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED**. It is the student’s responsibility to study and learn, not memorize this material. G/L quizzes are given to promote vocabulary, literacy, and the ability for students to identify root words commonly used in science and their daily vocabulary. If students lose or misplace their study guides, it can be reprinted from my class website. Correct spelling of the Greek and Latin words are vital in understanding the root of the words and will be **graded for spelling accuracy**.

**Plagiarism:**

Submitting work that is not in your words is considered to be plagiarism. Copying homework, cheating, copying and pasting directly from the internet or other publications, and others are acts that constitute this offense. Any student who has been found to participate in any capacity in these activities will receive a zero on the assignment and a parent phone call. Subsequent offenses will follow the school Code of Conduct and will be brought to the attention of the assistant principal.

**Grading:**

65% Formal (Tests and Projects)

35% Informal (Quizzes, Class work, Greek and Latin Quizzes, Labs, etc.)

**Late Work:**

Students are responsible for making up all late work assignments. They may do so by meeting with the teacher to get their work or visit my weebly and print it out themselves. All late work is subject to receive points off due to Bailey Middle School’s late grade policy.

I have read and understand the class syllabus and agree to abide by the rules, responsibilities, and expectations of this class and the school. In addition to this, I will put forth ample effort to participate in class, ask questions when needed, and **work hard to receive a grade that I am proud of and rightfully deserve.**

**Students copy the paragraph above in the space provided below**

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Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_