General Information
Course Name: 8th Grade Science
Teacher: Mr. Jeffrey Starman
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Course Description
Eighth grade science includes mainly the study of physical science and earth science. I will teach this course by utilizing a variety of instructional techniques. These could include lecture, discussion, group work, labs, projects, presentations, individual work, and many others. I will plan all of the lessons with the best interests of the students in mind. I will use the instructional strategies that work best for the students. We will cover three textbooks in this course. (The entire course outline is listed below)

Course Goals and Objectives
- There will be goals and objectives specific to each unit.
- Students will develop a scientific mind. They will question, test, and form conclusions by using the scientific method.
- Students will become motivated to learn about science.
- Students will make connections between the content and their everyday lives.
- Students will develop strong critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Textbooks and Materials
Textbooks:
Science Fusion—“Matter and Energy”
Science Fusion—“Sound and Light”
Science Fusion—“Motion, Forces, and Energy”

Materials:
- 3-ring binder or folder for science
- Basic calculator
- Science notebook
- Pencils, pens, colored pencils, highlighters, markers
- Crete Middle School Planner

Expectations of the Student
- Take pride in your self, your classmates, and Crete Middle School.
• Be prepared and ready to learn. Finish your work and give your best effort on all assignments.
• Keep organized. You will have many notes and handouts that will need to be organized. The more organized you are, the easier it will be to study and be successful in class.
• Students are expected to participate in class. This could be during class discussion, or it could also be doing your job or task in a group setting.
• Safety is key in science class. You are required to follow all safety rules and procedures.

**Expectations of the Teacher**

• I will take pride in myself, my students, and Crete Middle School
• I will be prepared for class. The objectives will be known and class will run smoothly because of my preparation.
• I will be organized. I have a system for all class activities. I will provide feedback in a timely manner and my organization of class activities will make learning easier.
• I will always be available for help. This could be before school, after school, or another time that is scheduled.
• I will give lesson quizzes for each lesson of a unit. This will help the students “chunk” the material. It will be easier to study when it comes time for the unit test.
• I will give a unit test for each unit in this course.
• I will give many lab opportunities in class for some authentic, hands-on learning.

**Grading Policy**

I will report grades using the online grading site Infinite Campus. Crete Middle School requires that grade reports go out every 3 weeks. Parents can also check your grades whenever they want by using your account on Infinite Campus. Students with a D or lower will receive a comment on their progress reports. I encourage parents to email or call me with any concerns or questions.

Grading Breakdown:

**Summative: 70%**
Tests:
Projects/Presentations
Labs
Quizzes

**Formative: 30%**
Short in Class Activities
Small Labs
Homework

**Summative Assessment:**
Summative assessments are assessments OF learning. They assess you on what you have learned after an instructional period. They are used to see overall growth or achievement during a learning period. A unit test, for example, assesses your knowledge and achievement on an entire unit.
Formative Assessment:
Formative assessments are assessments FOR learning. These assessments happen during instruction. They allow me to see how you are doing with the material. They help you prepare for the summative assessments. I can adjust my instruction based off of how well you do with formative assessments. If you are not doing well on these assessments, then I will reteach. These assessments also let you know what to expect for content on the unit test.

Course Schedule
The following course schedule is subject to change and may be changed at any time. This will depend on the flow of the course and the time it takes to learn material.

First Quarter
Unit 1: Matter
Unit 2: Energy

Second Quarter
Unit 3: Atoms and the Periodic Table
Unit 4: Interactions of Matter
Unit 5: Solutions, Acids, and Bases

Third Quarter
Unit 6: Introduction to Waves
Unit 7: Sound
Unit 8: Light

Fourth Quarter
Unit 9: Motion and Forces
Unit 10: Work, Energy, and Machines

Classroom Rules
3 Classroom Rules
• Be respectful
• Be responsible
• Be safe

What do these rules mean and why do we need them?
Be respectful:
• Follow classroom procedures.
• Respect your peers’ belongings.
• Respect your teacher’s belongings.
• Take care of all equipment in the classroom. (Lab supplies, books, materials, etc.)
• Be respectful of others’ ideas and thoughts.
• Treat others how you want to be treated.
• Act like a young adult. (Use good manners, be positive, etc.)

Be Responsible:
• Bring all materials to class.
• Finish all homework.
• Be in class on time.
• Participate in class.
• Take ownership of your own actions. (No excuses)
• Take ownership of your own learning.

Be Safe:
• Follow safety rules. (Lab safety!)
• Ask help from your teacher.
• Do not let your actions put others or yourself in dangerous situations.
• Follow class procedures.

Classroom Policies
Late Work:
I do not believe in a growing grade penalty for each day a piece of work is late. Turning in late work is a behavior, not a reflection of learning. To solve the problem, we need to fix the behavior. For the homework section, one point will be lost for late work, but no more. After the work is late, the student will receive no higher than a 3 for the homework. If it is a continuous problem that a student has not completed homework on their own time, then they will be required to complete the homework in my classroom before school, after school, or during lunch. If a homework assignment is not complete in time for quarter grades, then the work will receive one point. If there is any other late work besides homework, students will be required to use their own time to finish it. It will be entered as an incomplete in the grade book until done so. This could be before school, after school, or during lunch.

Make-up Work:
Students who are absent the day before will be able to find their documents and assignments in a designated absent work folder in the corner of the room. I will be available before school, after school, and during lunch to discuss any of the information. Students will have two days after they were absent until the make-up work is considered late. Once it is considered late, then the same procedure will be followed as stated in the late work policy.

Academic Integrity:
Cheating is not tolerated in my classroom. If a student is caught cheating, I will take the assignment and throw it away. I will never give a zero for cheating. Again, cheating is a behavior, not a reflection of knowledge. So, the student will be required to complete the assignment in my room on their own time. This could be before school, after school, or during lunch. If cheating is a reoccurring problem, then parents will be contacted.

Plagiarism:
There will not be many opportunities for students to plagiarize in an 8th grade science classroom, but if it happens, the assignment will be thrown away. The student will then have to re-do the assignment.
Reassessments:
All students will have the opportunity to redo any assignment for full credit. If a student wants to retake a unit test, they must talk to me individually. We will come up with a plan on how the student will prepare for the retake. The student must also set up a time to retake a test. This has to be on their time. Students will be required to notify their parents if they are retaking a test. I will note whether an assignment was redone on my paper grade book. I will also note a retake on infinite campus. The highest grade will be taken.

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

Student Name:_____________________________________

I, _________________________________________, the parent/guardian of the above student have read and agree to the terms of the course syllabus. I am aware that any concerns or questions can be sent to Mr. Starman via email or phone.

Parent/Guardian Signature:_________________________    Date:______________