

Dear Explorer Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome to 7th Grade Science where we will explore the natural world around us. It is my hope that over the course of this school year your understanding and appreciation of science and our home Planet Earth increase. I also hope that you add more “tools in your toolbox” so you will be prepared to think critically, be creative, and collaborate with others respectfully and responsibly when you leave 7th grade.

Classroom Rules and Expectations:

To be successful, students are expected to follow the school rules outlined in the BMMS student handbook and also to follow these basic rules of my class:

1. Be ready!
 - Be in your seat and/or doing bell work when the tardy bell rings.
 - Come with you required supplies (3-ring binder, iPad, loose-leaf paper, pencil, pen, highlighter) and assignments.
2. Be respectful!
 - Use appropriate language/tone in class.
 - Follow directions the first time they are given.
 - Remain silent when the teacher or another student is speaking.
 - Use all classroom resources (living and non-living) respectfully and wisely
3. Be responsible!
 - Be safe, exercise caution and use good judgment when conducting a lab activity.
 - Keep your science papers in the science section of your 3-ring binder.
 - Set learning goals, work to achieve your goals, take advantage of learning opportunities, allow yourself to make and learn from mistakes, celebrate your learning successes!

Learning Goals and Grading Policy:

Students will work to master the Kansas College and Career Readiness Standards for Middle School. Our 7th grade science units and the approximate timeline will be:

1. Ecosystems (August-October)
2. Ecosystem Change (October)
3. Biochemistry- Energy of Life (November)
4. Properties of Matter (November-December)
5. Chemical Reactions (December-January)
6. Tectonics(January-February)
7. Natural Resources (March-April)
8. Earth’s History (April-May)

The targeted learning goal(s) for each unit and lesson will be discussed and posted at the start of every lesson in the classroom. Students will be expected to keep track of assignments and due dates using their BMMS planner. Upcoming assignment due dates and grades will be posted on-line on Power School. Students, parents and guardians will have access to the on-line gradebook. Please contact the BMMS Guidance Office if you need help accessing Power School. We will also send out information about classroom activities in our weekly team emails.

Not all assignments in my classroom will count for a grade! Practice assignments are designed to give students “practice” and include bellwork, vocabulary work, notes, and other activities that help students gain knowledge. These assignments will be entered in the gradebook so you can monitor that practice has been completed but will NOT count towards the overall grade. This is so students do not have to worry about making mistakes as they learn new things. As a matter of fact, making mistakes is an important part of the learning process! Labs (experiments, investigations and design challenges) allow students to learn STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) core ideas as well as STEM practices. Labs will be count towards the overall science grade. Assessments are designed to allow students to show what they have learned and include projects and quizzes. These are usually worth more points than practice assignments in Power School. Often students will have choices so that they can personalize the learning process. These choices will be described in class.

Students are expected to complete assignments in a timely manner. Feedback from the teacher will also be given in a timely manner to inform and guide students. In the event of a missing or late assignment, students have one week after the due date to turn in the assignment to receive credit. If a student is absent multiple days, the student will be required to develop a plan with a timeline to make up missed learning opportunities. I will be offering “Extended Learning Opportunity”, ELO after school on Thursday from 3:15 until 4:00 pm in my classroom. This is open to any student who would like a place to work after school and/or students seeking extra help on assignments.

Students may submit a request to redo an assignment or assessment until the end of the unit. Request forms are available in the classroom. On the form the student will document their plan for improvement. Full credit will be given for the redo.

Please call, email, or stop by the school any time you may have a concern about your child’s progress in my class. My school phone is 785-330-1718 and email address is: abusby@usd497.org. The best time to reach me in person is during my personal plan time, 11:59 am- 12:42pm (on Wed 1:00-1:35pm). Students, you, too, may call or email me if you have a concern.

Please sign on the lines provided below to verify that you have read this letter and return it to me by Wednesday, August 21.

Sincerely,
Anna Busby

Parent/guardian Signature

Student Signature