

***8th Grade Science 2019-2020***

Mrs. Krista McLeod

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Conference period: 7:40 – 8:30 a.m.

Main Office Phone: 586-727-7552

Mrs. McLeod’s Room: 586-727-7552 ext 2304

Welcome to **science**! I am really looking forward to the wonderful year of learning we will have as we explore several key concepts in science.

**Course Overview and Description**

In 8th Grade Science at Richmond Middle School we cover six main units.

We start the year with a unit on Earth's place in the universe. Our students will examine the Earth's place in relation to the solar system, Milky Way galaxy, and universe. The next unit will emphasize Earth's history and structure. Students will examine geoscience data in order to understand the processes and events in Earth's history. The third unit covers Human Impacts on our planet. Students can use many different practices to understand the significant and complex issues surrounding human uses of land, energy, mineral, and water resources and the resulting impacts of their development. The fourth unit will focus on Earth's hydrosphere and atmosphere. Students will examine the factors that influence weather and climate, and look for connections as energy from the sun is transferred between systems and circulates through the oceans and atmosphere. The fifth unit is Informational Processes. Students will examine electromagnetic, mechanical, and chemical input that is processed in the brain, and also examine digitized output in information technologies and instrumentation. Finally, the sixth unit, Engineering Processes, will be implemented throughout the entire year. This unit focuses on development, design and testing in the world of science.

* Earth’s place in the Universe. (7 Weeks)
* Earth’s history and structure (7 weeks)
* Human impact on Earth (6 weeks)
* Hydrosphere and atmosphere (8 weeks)
* Informational processes (2 weeks)
* *This timeframe may change slightly*

Each main unit in science will include:

* Labs and/or projects
* Group work and presentations
* Assessments
* Lecture and note-taking

**Textbooks and supplemental material**

**Online textbook – Discovery Education**

User name: richmond student email

Password: richmond

**Standard Based Grading**

Students will be evaluated in Learning Qualities and Academics.

**Learning Qualities Learning Quality Rubric**

* Self-directed learner 1 - Consistently
* Homework 2 - Sometimes
* Integrity 3 – Needs Improvement
* Neighborly
* Engaged

**Academics**

* AP – Advance proficient
* P – Proficient
* PP – Partially proficient
* NP – Not proficient

**Summative Assessments**

If a student is absent on the day of a summative assessment, they are expected to make up the assessment on the day that they return to school.

**Retakes**

Students will be allowed to retake assessments as they work towards proficiency in the Science Standards.

* Students are expected to have all assignments turned in before retaking assessments.
* It is to be understood that the retake assessment may not be in the same format as the original assessment.

**Formative Assessments**

* Are due on the day after they are assigned unless otherwise stated.
* Points may be deducted for late assignments
* Late assignments will not be accepted after the summative assessment is given for that unit.

**Absences**

All daily assignments are posted in my classroom and on Schoology.

* Students are responsible to check the assignment board after an absence and retrieve any missing work. Students will have the same number of days they were absent to turn in missing work.
* **Homework assigned before an absence is to be turned in upon return to school.**

**Classroom Agreements**

1. Be Respectful – to adults, fellow students, and school property.
2. Be Prompt – be on time and *in your seat* when the bell rings.
3. Be Prepared – have all required materials with you (pencil pouch, composition notebook, binder and textbook).
4. Be Responsible – have your work done properly and on time.

Classroom agreements are very important so that we have a safe and productive learning environment. **In case some of the rules are broken, the following step discipline plan will be implemented.**

1. A warning
2. A minute after class and a phone call or email home.
3. A trip to the office/lunch detention
4. A severe disruption will move directly to step three.

**Policies**

* Students must bring their planner to class every day. It is an important organizational tool and their hallway pass.
* Bathroom breaks are to be taken between classes, unless it is an emergency.
* Cell phones are to remain in student lockers and are to be turned off.
* No backpacks and jackets allowed in the classroom.
* Students are expected to follow the Richmond Middles School Handbook at all times.

**Suggested Supply List**

* 100 page notebook
* **Dry erase marker**
* Coloring utensils
* Earbuds for computer work

**Donations/other:**

* One box Kleenex

***Let’s Have a Wonderful Year!!***

**Please sign after reading and return signed page by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

I have read and understand Mrs. McLeod’s course syllabus for **8th Grade Science \_\_\_\_\_\_ hour.**

Student name *printed* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student *signature* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name *printed* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian *signature*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please make notes of seating arrangement requests or any needs or concerns\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please see back page for our common 8th grade practices.**

**8th Grade Common Practices:**

* Tardy – Students who need to go back to locker for regular class supplies after the bell rings are marked tardy
* Bathroom – Student Planner required
* Missing/Late Work – Late Assignments for credit will be accepted up until the assessment.
* Retakes – Retake forms must be filled out. If a retake is needed for an assessment, any work still missing must be completed.
* Snacks – allowed during 4th hour only except for students with a 504 accommodation that says otherwise
* Drinks – water is allowed in all classes. No other beverages are allowed.
* SHINE grades:
  + Reported every two weeks
  + Self-Directed Learner –
    - 0-2 times in two weeks to be reminded to stay on task and/or engaged in cooperative learning will receive a 1
    - 3-4 times in two weeks to be reminded to stay on task and/or engaged in cooperative learning will receive a 2
    - A 3 will be given at teacher discretion for multiple or consistent instances of not being on task and/or engaged in cooperative learning
  + Homework –
    - 0-2 missing/late assignments receive a 1
    - 2+ missing/late assignments receive a 2
    - A 3 will be given at teacher discretion for multiple or consistent late/missing assignments
  + Integrity –
    - 0-1 instance of not being prepared (including no SSR book) receive a 1
    - 2+ instances of not being prepared (including no SSR book) receive a 2
    - A 3 will be given at teacher discretion for multiple or consistent instances of not being prepared (including no SSR book)
  + Neighborly
    - 0-1 instances of NOT being Neighborly will receive a 1
    - 2-3 instances of NOT being Neighborly will receive a 2 in the corresponding category
    - 4+ instances of NOT being Neighborly will receive a 3 in the corresponding category
  + Engaged
    - 0-1 instances of NOT being Engaged will receive a 1
    - 2-3 instances of NOT being Engaged will receive a 2 in the corresponding category
    - 4+ instances of NOT being Engaged will receive a 3 in the corresponding category