Welcome to Eighth Grade Science. This is a required course, during which you will use the process of science to explore many different phenomena, often with surprising results! You will approach science with an open mind, knowing that while there is much to learn, there is still more to discover. You will seek patterns in your learning that will help you better understand the world in and around you. Finally, you will develop arguments for your discoveries based on accepted scientific theories and sound evidence.

You will learn that you are capable of science.

Our year is divided into three sections: First, we will be exploring the properties of matter and how the tiniest atoms and molecules in substances are responsible for their unique qualities. We will explore how products we use every day are derived from natural resources. Second, we will examine and analyze the fossil record, making connections between early organisms on Earth and present-day organisms. We will learn about genes and how they change over long periods of time. Finally, we will turn our attention to the stars, the moon, the sun, and the space between them. We will learn about the relationships between these celestial bodies, and their surprising effects on our day to day lives. All content will be covered in accordance with the Next Generation Science Standards.

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| **Course Requirements:** |
| 1. Attend and be prepared
2. Participate in labs, activities, and discussions
3. Follow school policies
4. Complete all work and compile a science notebook.
5. Check Skyward often and report concerns to me
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| **Materials:** |
| 1. Textbooks – only used in class unless signed out by me
2. Three-ring science binder with five dividers – to contain and organize learning targets, assignments, homework, and agenda.
3. Skyward – for students and parents to track progress, grades, and messages
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| **Grades:** |
| • 40%: Quizzes and Tests• 40%: Lab/Class Work, Projects and Assignments, Binder Organization• 20%: Class Participation  |
| % | 93-100 | 90-92 | 87-89 | 83-86 | 80-82 | 77-79 | 73-76 | 70-72 | 67-69 | 63-66 | 60-62 | 0-59 |
| Grade | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | F |
| **Policy on Improving Grades:** |
| Assignments: You may re-submit an assignment if you score a C or below. To re-submit an assignment: correct your mistake on a clean sheet of paper. Provide a clear scientific explanation for why you chose the new answer. *Staple your re-submitted work on top of the original work.* Additional points will be awarded ***only*** if it is complete, neat, and correct. **Your will earn the average of the original and corrected score.**Tests: Students can improve test grades following the procedure outlined in their student notebook. |
| **Policy on Late Work:** |
| Late work is accepted for a reduced grade.  |

*Students and families,* ***please check Skyward often*** *and notify me by email or phone if you have any questions about grades, assignments, or progress.*

*Safety and discipline are imperative in our science class. Students and guardians are expected to review and agree to the following laboratory safety rules:*

**SMS Science Laboratory Safety Rules**

1. **I will follow all instructions**
2. **I will wear personal protective equipment, such as safety glasses, when indicated**
3. **I will keep hair, clothing, and jewelry back and away from lab activities**
4. **I will wash my hands after handling chemicals**
5. **I will notify my teacher immediately in the event of an accident or spill**
6. **I will learn the location of fire extinguishers, eye wash, fire blanket and other safety equipment.**
7. **I will not eat, drink, or chew gum**
8. **I will always remain calm and in physical control**
9. **I will clean equipment and keep lab stations tidy**
10. **I will not taste, touch, or smell anything unless directed by my teacher and using proper technique**
11. **I will not pour anything down drains except water, unless instructed by my teacher**
12. **I will use proper techniques to observe substances in the laboratory**

**Failure to follow safety rules will result in loss of lab privileges and credit.**

*I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read the course objectives and lab safety rules. I understand the policies and agree to abide by the laboratory safety rules. I understand that failure to abide by these rules will incur consequences outlined in the SMS Student Handbook.*

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| *Student Signature Period* | *Parent/Guardian Signature* |

*To ensure the safety of all students, those who do not return this signed safety document will not be able to participate in lab activities.*