**Eighth Grade Science Syllabus**

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**Introduction:** Welcome to science. This syllabus is intended to outline what you will be learning this year as well as the expectations that I have for you in class. I am looking forward to working with you this year as you develop your skills in science.

**Objectives:** Aligning with Michigan State Standards, eighth grade Earth science covers five main standards. These standards focus on scientific inquiry, the Earth system and the movement of elements, compounds, and energy though it, the solid Earth, the fluid Earth and the history of the Earth and the universe. These standards are broken down into smaller sub standards with more detail and explanation and can be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Earth_HSCE_168206_7.pdf>. Students will be exposed to hands-on activities, labs and class room lecture/discussions. Students will be responsible for notes, hand-outs, labs, web-quests, projects, presentations and assessments.

**Grading**: The grading scale given in the student handbook will be followed in class. A cumulative midterm and final exam will be given during the school year.

100-93.5 A
93.4-89.5 A-
89.4-86.5 B+
86.4-83.5 B
83.4-79.5 B-
79.4-76.5 C+
76.4-72.5 C
72.4-69.5 C-
69.4-66.5 D+
66.4-62.5 D
62.4-59.5 D-
59.4 or below E

\*Extra Credit will NOT be given.

**Everyday Expectations:**You must come to science class EVERY day with:
1. Pencil

2. Binder and notebook

3. Textbook

4. Behavior Record

5. Working attitude

6. Respect for others

**Classroom Procedures:**
1. **Get to class on time**. Tardiness will not be accepted. You are being inconsiderate towards your teacher and your classmates, not to mention that you are cheating yourself out of valuable learning time.

**2**. I expect that you will **enter the room in an orderly fashion**. Once you have arrived, please sit in your seat, take out your notebook, and do the warm up activity that will be posted. If you finish early you may read a book.

**3**. You must **be prepared** for every class. It detracts from learning time if I have to locate a pencil or paper for you. If you forget your materials, there is a bin on the front desk with pencils, pens, and paper. Quietly get what you need. This is *not* to be an everyday occurrence.

**4**. I also expect that you will be quiet while I or another classmate is speaking. However, should you be involved in an activity that requires you to be out of your seat, I will get the class's attention by using the **“give me five” procedure.** At this point, you will stop talking and wait for further directions.

**5**. Homework should be completed before class begins. You *should not* be scrambling to finish it when the bell rings. There is a **zero tolerance for zeroes** in class. EVERY assignment must be turned in. Working lunch will be assigned until you are caught up with assignments and assessments. You are held accountable for *all* assignments.

**6**. If you are absent, you are still responsible for the work that you miss. Your assignments will be in the daily paperwork bin in the classroom. It is *your* *responsibility* to pick them up. You will have as many days as you were absent to complete the work. Extensions will be given only for extenuating circumstances. Rule #3 will apply to any late make-up work.

**7**. Absolutely no cell phones/MP3 players etc. in class unless we are using them for a specific assignment.

**8**. **I dismiss you,** not thebell. Before you can leave my room, it must be clean, the desks must be in rows, and you must be in your seat. Only then will you be dismissed.

 **Homework:** Homework that is assigned is always due the next day unless otherwise noted. Homework will be checked each day, but will not always be collected and assessed. Homework, whether collected or not, will always count as part of your participation. All assignments should be written in your agenda book. A class website has been set up and will contain information about homework and important events. Go to [http://mrswisniewski.weebly.com](http://mrswisniewskisclass.weebly.com) to see available information and assignment print outs.

**Zero Tolerance for Zeroes:** There is a zero tolerance for zeroes in science class. This means that every student will do every assignment. If a student is missing an assignment he/she must come to the classroom during lunch for a “working lunch” period until the missing work is turned in.

**Rework Policy:** Any student can rework any assignment that he/she has gotten below an 80 on. If the rework is done correctly, the student can earn a maximum rework grade of an 80. This grade will replace the lower, original grade. This policy will stay in effect until the end of the first semester. At this point there will be no reworks. This will prepare you for high school expectations.

**I Can Statements*:*** “I Can Statements” are mini-objectives derived from the Michigan Disciplines and Standards. “I Can Statements” are written in student-friendly language. For each unit, I provide students with a handout of "I Can Statements". With these handouts, students are to keep track of their progress toward mastering the learning objective. Throughout the unit I assign students to assess themselves on various items in the handout. At the end of the unit they are assigned to review each statement and rate their level of mastery again. This handout is turned in at the end of the unit.

**Responsibility Record:** Students will be given a responsibility record where the teacher can track positive and negative behaviors. This is to be kept in the science binder at all times. Tickets will be given for positive behaviors that can be accumulated and used for various rewards discussed in class. Consequences for misbehavior are listed on the responsibility record. Silent lunch, parent contact/meeting and loss of privileges are among these consequences.

**Absences:** If you are absent from class, it is **your responsibility** to get your assignments and make up the work that you missed in class within the week. If you miss a test, quiz, or lab, you are expected to make up the work within 2-3 days of your return. If you do not turn in an assignment you will come up during lunch until it is finished.

**Availability:** I am available before and after school by appointment and at lunch (Monday, Wednesday and Friday)**.** You may talk to me about extra help at the end of class; contact me through email (**lwisniewski@baragaschools.org**); write me a note; or call me at school. I am here to help you and I look forward to doing so!

 I have read, understand and agree to follow the above policies and procedures.

**Student Signature ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

# Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**