

HMS Science: 8th Grade

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8th Grade Science Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/hsd3.org/burg-business/>

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for allowing me to teach your child! I look forward to learning more about your student and meeting you at Open House, or sooner. I would like to keep open communication with you about your child's education, so please feel free to email, call, check my website, or visit with me at any time. In order to ensure a positive and productive school year, please read and discuss the following syllabus with your child. Thank you for your time, and please keep this for your own reference.

Dear Students,

This year will be filled with challenges, excitement, new content knowledge, connections to your own experiences, cooperative learning, and links between Indigenous Science Knowledge and Western Science Theories. **Your effort and questions are always appreciated.**

SYLLABUS

Objective: To actively involve students in learning science by using investigative instructional strategies and inquiry-based learning that accommodate different learning styles, abilities, and interests.

Overview of Course:

Introduction to Science:

- General Expectations/Skills for Science
- Lab Safety Rules and Procedures
- Scientific Method and Measurement

Major Units Covered include:

Earth's Structure and Processes
Weathering and Soil
Plate Tectonics
Geologic Timescale
Earth's Water
The Solar System

Rocks and Minerals
Erosion and Deposition
Earthquakes and Volcanoes
Atmosphere, Climate, and Weather
Glacial Lake Missoula
The Sun-Earth-Moon System

Class Supplies:

Every student must have the following everyday in class: pen or pencil, calculator, planner, *covered* science textbook, science binder, and an independent reading book. A binder divided with tabs and full of paper is ideal for keeping handouts and taking notes. All handouts will be 3-hole punched for easy organization and efficiency.

Science Class Expectations: “*WORK HARD, BE NICE!*”

Be Prompt. Students must enter the room quietly and be in their seats before the tardy bell rings.

Be Prepared. Students must have their required supplies ready for use when the bell rings.

Be Positive and Proactive. Student must follow directions, listen attentively, and remain on task at all times during class.

Be Safe and Polite. Students must treat others and their property with respect, especially during labs.

Participate. Students must participate in a measurable way and be accountable for their learning.

Science Fair Requirements:

All students are required to investigate a Science Fair project and present it once in class and several times at the actual fair. As the date nears (typically near the end of February), students will have class time to work and assistance from various resources in the school and community. My goal is to make the fair experience meaningful and relevant to students' lives.

***OPTIONAL* Science Olympiad Team:**

The Hamilton Middle School Science Olympiad Team is comprised of 15 (typically) seventh and eighth grade student competitors. These students compete to be on the HMS Team, and they also compete every November against other students across the state at Montana State University.

ALL students are encouraged to try out for the team! The events vary from answering multiple choice tests to building and launching bottle rockets! Plus, students generally work in teams to prepare and support each other for the competition. If interested, students should listen for announcements in September and October. The coaches are Mr. Barcus and Ms. DeBiasio.

Please only return the lab safety contract.
This paper is yours to keep. THANK YOU!