

8th Grade Earth Science

Instructor: Ms. Baxter **Room:** 111

Contact Information:

Email: kbaxter@flschools.org

Phone: 651.982.8730

Website: www.baxterscience.net

Course Overview:

8th grade Earth Science is divided into the following units:

1. Scientific Method
2. Atomic Theory & Matter
3. Minerals & Rocks
4. Plate Tectonics
5. Geologic Time
6. Astronomy
7. Water
8. Meteorology
9. Weathering & Erosion
10. Minnesota's Geology

Please see the class website for additional information on course content, including essential learning outcomes, learning targets, and vocabulary. *Students may watch portions of science-related movies that may be rated PG-13. Please contact me if you wish your student to refrain from watching these movies.*

Instructional Materials:

- **Textbooks:** Prentice Hall Chemical Building Blocks 2007 Edition; Prentice Hall Earth Science, 2006 Edition.
- **Student provided materials needed to be successful in this class:**
 - *Composition Notebook (100 sheets/200 pages). No spiral bound notebooks. Do not tear out any pages.
 - *Three-ring science binder or folder to organize extra assignments
 - Scientific calculator (TI-30XIIS recommended)
 - Bottle of glue (leave in classroom)
 - Package of 10 colored pencils (leave in classroom)
 - Planner/Agenda
 - Pencils with erasers (2+)

**These materials are for science class use only and should not be shared with other classes.

Science Notebooks: Students will need to bring a single subject composition notebook to class **every day** to take notes, record data, and create lab reports. It is very important that students follow the correct format and keep their notebooks updated. Notebooks may be collected and graded periodically. Earth Science students are recommended to take notes using the Cornell format, and will have their notes reviewed for quality & composition.

Methods of Study: Science is a collaborative endeavor; this course will use a variety of instructional methods with the overall goal of having students engage in authentic scientific inquiry and processes. Methods include laboratory investigations, cooperative learning groups, class discussions, computer-assisted activities, and research projects.

Discipline Procedures:

1. Individual Discussion with Ms. Baxter
2. Lunch Detention / Parent or Guardian Contact
3. Classroom Removal
4. Office Referral - Before/After School Detention

Misbehavior for a substitute teacher and/or willful destruction of the classroom environment will result in an automatic detention. Severe or sustained discipline issues may result in an immediate office referral.

Participation: Students will be expected to participate fully in all class discussions, group work, labs, and activities. A majority of activities will involve collaborating in groups. Students should follow all classroom and school rules during group activities. Students who miss labs, tests, or quizzes will need to arrange a time before or after school to make up the activity. It is the student's responsibility to arrange make-up dates & times. ***Bullying and/or academic dishonesty (cheating) of any kind will absolutely not be tolerated and will result in immediate disciplinary action.***

Grading: In 8th grade science classes homework, class work, notebooks, tests, quizzes, and projects will make up your grade. Effort is important! Your work is assessed using criteria that reward students who put forth effort. Examples of quality work include: completeness, correctness, neatness, details, measurements, and fully labeled graphs. All of these concepts will be taught throughout the course. **True learning only occurs when you are confused, put forth effort, and learn from your mistakes.** You should review all graded assignments to see where you could improve. Then, apply that knowledge to subsequent assignments, so you don't make the same mistake again. Completing all assignments to your best, honest effort should be a goal for all students in this course.

90-100% A 80-89% B 70-79% C 60-69% D 59% & below F

Assessments: Include tests, quizzes, lab reports, and some individual projects.

Labs, Homework, & Classwork: Includes homework, labs, journals, notebook checks, vocabulary, and worksheets.

**** Work that is not finished during class time is expected to be completed as homework and be ready for discussion in class the next day. ****

Late Work: ALL work is expected to be completed and turned in on the assigned due date in order for students to correct their work during class and/or participate in class discussions. Completing work on time is essential for understanding the material covered in class, as many topics build upon previous ones. ***Scores will be reduced by 50% if turned in after the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted after the homework deadline.***

Late work due to absences or special circumstances will be addressed by Ms. Baxter on an individual basis. Students are responsible for the work missed during an absence and are strongly encouraged to visit the designated locations within the classroom that contain these assignments. Some assignments will be available on the class website as well.

Lab Safety: Safety in a science lab is ***very important***. Students and a parent/guardian are required to read and sign the safety contract before students will be allowed to participate in laboratory activities. Specific safety procedures will be reviewed before every activity. Students who violate the safety contract will be asked to sit out and complete an alternative assignment.

Behavior: Every student has the right to learn. No behaviors will ever interfere with the learning process.

Tardies: You must be in your seat and ready to learn by the time the last bell rings. Tardy Policy at SWJH:

Infraction 1: Address with Student

Infraction 2: Referral to counselor

Infraction 3: Student or Teacher Call Home

Infraction 4: Referral to Office

Phone Use: Unless students need their phone for classwork, this will occasionally happen, students need to keep their phones on silent and put away. Phone Policy at SWJH:

Infraction 1: Student loses phone for period (secured by teacher).

Infraction 2: Student loses phone for day (brought to office until end of school day).

Infraction 3: Student loses phone to office, parent picks up (brought to office).

Come prepared each day ready to learn.

*"Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science."
Edwin Hubble*

