

Trailblazer Science



Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Trailblazer Science! I am so pleased you are joining our team. To help make your 8th grade experience as successful as possible, I would like to let you know what to expect this year.

Grading:

We will be utilizing Standards Based Grading. This means your final grade for each trimester will be based on your mastery of the Science Standards (the important ideas) for 8th grade. You will be assigned Learning Opportunities to acquire new knowledge and you will take a formative assessment (often a practice quiz but not always) to show how well you understand that new knowledge. You will have multiple opportunities to show that knowledge if necessary. Practice quizzes and other formative assessments will be graded on a 4 point scale (you must earn at least a 3 to move on) and include feedback from me to let you know how you are doing. The grades for these formative assessments will be put into Infinite Campus but will not affect your final grade. Parents will be able to see how students are progressing, including whether or not an assignment has been completed in a within the suggested time frame or is missing or incomplete. Your performance on Topic Assessments and Unit Tests will be used to calculate your final grade.

Citizenship:

Student behavior will be assessed separately from academic grades. Student behavior includes (but is not limited to) homework completion, effort, and classroom behavior. Central Middle's five core values, Kindness, Integrity, Perseverance, Accountability, and Acceptance, are strongly considered when assigning a citizenship grade.

Mastery Learning:

If you do not succeed the first time you learn about a concept, or are not successful on an assessment, I expect you to continue to work at it until you understand the material and/or successfully complete the assessment. You are expected to make this effort. ASK FOR HELP!. Help might include working with other students, asking for help in class, or scheduling tutoring time with me. YOU SHOULD NOT LET YOURSELF GET TOO FAR BEHIND! If you do not take any assessment (practice quizzes, topic assessments, or unit tests) by the expected due date, your topic assessment grade will be entered in at 50% the total possible points. When the assessment is completed, the score you earned will replace the 50%. If you have a habit of not using class time wisely, missing/late work, your parents will be contacted. Parents, please be sure I have a daytime phone number where you can be reached.

Science Notebook:

An integral part of the course is the daily use of a science notebook. Students in science class are true scientists and will use their notebooks to record information, take notes, analyze results, reflect on experiments, and solve problems. Since each student has a Chromebook, we will experiment with a digital science notebook. Remember that your notebook, on paper or online, is a record of what you have accomplished in this course and a *permanent* place for everything you have learned!

Units of Study:

Forces and Interactions
Geological Processes
Weather and Climate
Natural Selection

Guidelines for Success in Science

Please do:

- ☺ ASK QUESTIONS IF YOU NEED HELP! See me or another student if you need help on an assignment. I am available during before school, at lunch or after school.
- ☺ Be on time!
- ☺ Bring the necessary supplies every day: Chomebook (fully charged), writing instrument, headphones). This is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
- ☺ Keep up with the class as best you can. If you get behind, ask how you can get caught up.
- ☺ If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get caught up.
- ☺ If you use classroom supplies, return them.
- ☺ Maintain your science journal/notebook.
- ☺ Follow the lab safety guidelines and class expectations at all times.
- ☺ Check Google Classroom and the classroom board every day for announcements and assignments.
- ☺ Always put forth your best effort!
- ☺ If you are not successful the first time, keep trying. Remember that mistakes are a great opportunity to learn!
- ☺ ASK QUESTIONS! Yes, I know I said it already – but it is important!

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By signing below, you are stating that you have read and understand the above information and guidelines. Please return by **Friday, August 25, 2017.**

Student Name (printed) _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Remove this sheet from the packet. Keep the top sheet, then sign and return this paper to your teacher.

Something to Think About. . .

“Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.” – Nelson Mandela

“It’s not that I’m so smart, it’s just that I stay with problems longer.” – Albert Einstein

*“Don’t tell me how talented you are. Tell me how hard you work.”
– Artur Rubenstein*

“Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.” – Pele

The cure for boredom is curiosity.

There is no cure for curiosity.

– Ellen Parr

The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.

-Walt Disney

I dare you to do better.

-Captain Pike, U.S.S Enterprise (Star Trek)

*“Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.”
– Albert Einstein*