

Brixner Junior High



8th Grade Science

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to not stop questioning.”
— Albert Einstein, *Relativity: The Special and the General Theory*

Teacher:	Marlena McPherson
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Class website:	http://mcpersonscience.weebly.com

2016-17 Course Description:

Our 8th grade science class will focus on learning both Earth and Physical Science. Our main focus is rooted in an understanding of the scientific method and the exploratory process of science. Topics include science inquiry, lab safety, measurement tools, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, weathering and erosion, climate & weather, atmosphere, properties of matter, motion and forces, transfer of energy, and engineering & technology.

Access to the internet is highly encouraged for this class, as many materials will be provided and discussed through our class website. This includes video, interactive quizzes, and class messageboards. **If you have limited access to technology during off-school hours, please notify Mrs. McPherson so she can provide accommodations!**

Textbooks:

Holt Science & Technology: Earth Science, Physical Science

Textbooks will be checked out from the library at the beginning of the school year. It is the student's responsibility to care for and return their textbook, or **they will be charged for the damaged or lost book.**

Materials Required for the Class:

- No. 2 Pencil
- Pen (blue/black only)
- College-ruled paper
- A science notebook (**composition style – college ruled**)
- A curious brain!!



Grading:

- 90-100%.....A
- 80-89% B
- 70-79%..... C
- 60-69% D
- Below 60%..... F

**these grade values are approximate weights of what will determine your final grade, and are subject to change or vary slightly.*

Grading Framework Assignment	Approximate* grade value
Science Notebooks <i>Notebooks will remain in the classroom and will document various activities and lessons in class as well as student-created discussion and input. They are subject to grade-checks at any time, and will always be graded at the end of each unit.</i>	25%*
Homework Quizzes & Activities <i>This will include participation on our class website, watching video clips, and pop-quizzes</i>	15%*
Lab Reports	10%*
Unit Tests & Quizzes	25%*
Student Projects	25%*

“The most exciting phrase to hear in science - the one that heralds the most discoveries - is not ‘Eureka! I found it!’ but ‘That’s funny...’ ”

— Isaac Asimov

Expectations

This is a hands-on class with many opportunities for student-led class time. To make this work, students **must** be respectful both in class and online in class web material, participate fully, and **consistently complete homework BEFORE entering class!!**

Absent students have as many days to make up work as they were out, and are expected to look on the class website/seek peer input for what material was covered in class.

Students are expected to come to class prepared each day with a pencil/pen, paper, completed homework, and a willingness to participate. **Students coming unprepared to class are subject to lose points on assignments.** Late work will be docked 10% for each day late up to 50%. No work later than a month (or after a grading period deadline) will be accepted.

On lab days, students are expected to follow all safety rules established. Failure to follow lab rules will result in immediate removal from the lab, docked points for the lab report, and a makeup written assignment for the next scheduled lab.

Students who miss a lab day due to an absence will be given material to write a lab report.

Academic Honesty Statement and Code of Student Conduct

Students are expected to maintain academic integrity and honesty in completion of all work for this class.

Any act of plagiarism **will result in a zero for that assignment**, unless otherwise determined by Mrs. McPherson.

“Acts of plagiarism” include:

- copying from the work of another
- allowing another student to copy from one’s own work
- unauthorized use of materials during tests
- intentional or unintentional failure to acknowledge the ideas or words of another that have been taken from any published or unpublished source (aka copying and pasting)
- placing one’s name on papers, reports, or other documents that are the work of another individual

*In case of loss, theft, destruction or dispute over authorship, always retain a copy of any work you produce and submit for grades. **Retain all written work that has been graded and handed back to you.***

Please sign below, detach and return to Mrs. McPherson. Email if you have questions!

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- I, and my parent/guardian, understand the rules of the classroom.
 - I, and my parent/guardian, understand that failure to follow these rules can affect my grade and future participation in some aspects of class/lab.

please check one of the following that best applies to you:

- I have access to the internet away from school and will be able to participate in online class material.
- I have access to the internet away from school, but have the following limitations that may prevent my participation in online class material:

- I do not have access to the internet away from school.

Student signature & printed name

date

Parent/Guardian signature & printed name

date