Earth Science

8th Grade

Chelsey Bicknell

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Room # 1

**About me:**

Welcome to our 8th Grade Earth Science Class! I am really looking forward to teaching all of you this year! Now, please allow me to introduce myself! My name is Chelsey Bicknell. I have been married for two years and have a beautiful baby boy that is now almost 4 months old. I graduated from Virginia Tech in 2012 with a Bachelor’s of Science.

This year will be quite different for all of you, your classes will be a bit more challenging and your work load will be a bit heavier. However, you are not to worry! We will get through all of the necessary SOLs and still have a lot of fun, as well!

**Course Description:** This course will connect the study of Earth’s composition, structure, processes, and history; its atmosphere, fresh water, and oceans; and its environment in space. The course emphasizes historical contributions in the development of scientific thought about the Earth and space. The course stresses the interpretation of maps, charts, tables, and profiles; the uses of technology to collect, analyze, and report data; and the utilization of science skills in systematic investigation. Major topics of study include plate tectonics, the rock cycle, Earth history, the oceans, the atmosphere, weather and climate, and the solar system and universe

**Course Standards:** The following standards will be covered throughout the year:

* ES.7 Geological Processes and Plate Tectonics
* ES.8 Freshwater Resources
* ES.9 History and Evolution of Earth
* ES.10 Earth’s Oceans
* ES.11 Earth’s Atmosphere
* ES.12 Weather and Climate
* ES.13 The Universe
* ES.1 Scientific Investigation
* ES.2 Scientific Reasoning
* ES.3 Earth and the Solar System
* ES.4 Identification of Rocks and Minerals
* ES.5 The Rock Cycle
* ES.6 Renewable and Nonrenewable Resources

**Textbook:** Holt McDougal Earth Science

**Supplies Needed:**

2 inch Binder OR 3-subject notebook

Dividers

Pencils/Pens

Notebook Paper

Colored Pencils

Highlighters

300 Index Cards

**Grades:** All assignments will be graded on a scale of 100% unless otherwise instructed. The grading scale used at SMS is the following:

**A:** 100-93 **B:** 92-85 **C:** 84-77 **D:** 76-70 **F:** 69 and below

**Classroom Assessments and Weights**

* Homework (10%) – Given nightly as studying or written work.
* Classwork (35%) – Warm-ups, labs, and practice in class.
* Quizzes (25%) – At least once per week.

Tests and Benchmarks (30%) – 2 benchmarks each nine weeks, 1 notebook grade.

**Classroom Expectations and Procedures:**

* Take care of all bathroom and water fountain needs **before** the tardy bell. (you must be seated before the bell rings to arrive on time)
* Bring all of the required supplies to class daily.
* When you arrive, take out your supplies and start your warm-up immediately.
* All seats are assigned in groups and will change from time to time as needed for the best learning environment.
* There will be no talking when I am speaking to the class or during independent work. All pair and group activities will require talking, but strictly on topic and only with your group.
* You must remain seated during instruction, unless the activity requires it or you ask permission.
* Raise your hand and wait for me to call on you for all questions and requests.
* Be respectful to other students and their belongings.
* Each group’s table must be clean with all lab materials packed away before I will dismiss them.
* All other general school rules apply in my classroom. Please be familiar with the student handbook.

**Consequences**:

* 3 tardies will result in a referral to administration and a letter home.
* Talking at inappropriate times, off-task, verbal altercations, and any other disruptive behaviors:
  1. Warning or seating change as needed.
  2. Brief removal and student teacher conference about misbehaviors and expectations.
  3. Parent contact.
  4. Referral to administration and parent contact.
* Physically fighting, cursing, blatant disrespect to staff, and other major misbehaviors will result in classroom removal, a referral to administration and parent contact.

Chelsey Bicknell

SMS Phone# 757-653-9250

**8th Grade Earth Science**

**Verification Sheet**

By signing below, I am verifying that I have read and reviewed the following materials for the 8th  grade science course taken during the 2015-2016 school year:

* Course Syllabus
* Course Objectives
* Supply List

**Students should keep the syllabus in their notebooks for future reference.**

Print Student’s Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent or Guardian’s Information:**

Print Parent’s Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If your child does a super job, or could use and extra reminder to complete their assignments how would you like me to contact you? Please fill in any means that you would like me to use and number them in order of which means would reach you the quickest or be the most convenient for you:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I have reliable internet at my house and would not mind if my child was assigned homework on the computer.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I do not live in an area with reliable internet, and homework on the computer would be a hardship.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Means of Communication You would Prefer that I Use:** | **Please number them in order of which means would reach you the quickest or be the most convenient for you.** |
| Home Phone Number: |  |  |
| Cell Phone Number: |  |  |
| Work Phone Number: |  |  |
| E-mail Address: |  |  |

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Often I send out a mass text to let parents know that I have updated grades or that their children have a big test coming up in the near future. If you would like to be a part of these updates, please mark an “x” on the line. Just be sure to respond to this text in a separate message, so that our conversation will remain private.

**I give permission for my child to be photographed. These photographs will only be used for educational records and data. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please return this form to Mrs. Bicknell by Friday, September 11, 2015.**