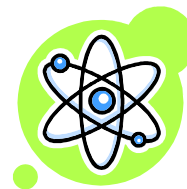


8th Grade Physical Science

Stafford Middle School

2011-2012

Ms. Sciole



To Parents/Guardians and Physical Science Students:

Welcome to a wonderful new year of school! Let me begin by introducing myself, Kathleen Sciole, as your student's 8th Grade Physical Science teacher. I am eager and excited to begin another new school year and to get to know all of my students and their parents/guardians.

This will be a very exciting year in science as we will be covering topics such as force, motion, and chemistry. At the end of the year in the spring the 8th Grade ILS Exam (Intermediate Level Science Examination) will take place. The purpose of this exam is to evaluate the student's knowledge and understanding of the material in the 5, 6, 7, and 8th grade curriculums.

Specific supplies will be needed so that your student is prepared to participate in both lecture and lab classes. Your student will need the following supplies for class by Monday, September 12th:

Blue or black pens

#2 Pencils

Loose-leaf paper

Two Pocket Folder

3-ring binder (at least 1-inch thick) *students may place another subject in the same binder if it is greater than 1-inch thick*

Our classroom is equipped with student calculators, so purchasing one specifically for science is not mandatory.

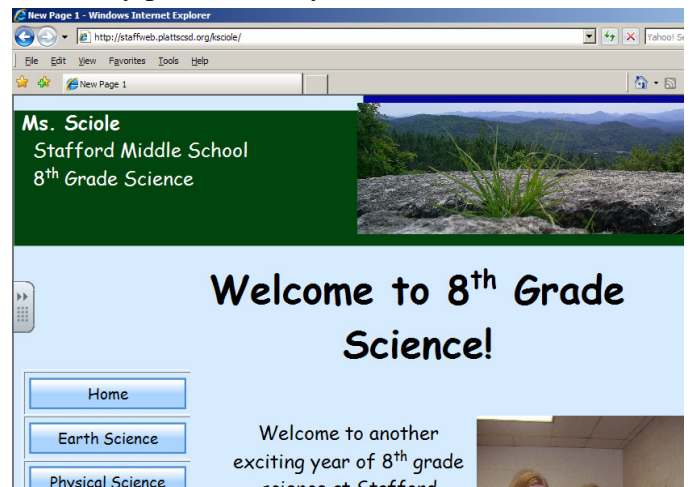
Students are required to bring to class every day:

1. a blue or black pen
2. a #2 black pencil
3. their Science notebook
4. their Science textbook
5. their Assignment Notebook/Daily Planner (*issued by the school*)
6. completed work/assignments

The textbook that the students will be using this year is a combination of a text and workbook in one book. That means that the students will be writing in their textbooks for homework assignments and in-class activities. **For this reason it is imperative that students bring their textbooks to class everyday. Students will be issued ONE textbook for the year. At the end of the year students will get to keep their issued books!**

I believe that communication between students, parents, and teachers is a key component to a student's academic success. As an aid for both parents and teachers I do daily posts onto my website with homework assignments, handouts, PowerPoint presentations, extra credit assignments, and other related resources. Students are able to access my website while they are in school and I strongly encourage both students and parents to access the website from home:

<http://staffweb.plattscsd.org/ksciole/>



Attached to this letter is a handout outlining the basic course requirements, expectations, and procedures for class. As your student's first homework assignment they are to go over this handout with you, answer any questions that you may have, have both of you sign it, and return to me at the beginning of class on Monday, September 12th, 2011.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year please feel free to contact me by phone at **518-563-6800** during school hours or by email at **ksciole@plattscsd.org**. This will be an exciting year and I look forward to working together to ensure the very best for your student. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sciole
8th Grade Physical Science Teacher
Stafford Middle School
ksciole@plattscsd.org

Course Guidelines & Procedures

8th Grade Physical Science

Ms. Sciole

Class Rules

- 1. Be Safe**
- 2. Be Respectful**
- 3. Be Responsible**

Untolerated Behavior

- All students and staff are to be respected at Stafford Middle School and no form of bullying will be tolerated.
- Profanity, lewd comments (ex: race, sex, gender), fighting, etc. violate the safe, responsible, and respectful classroom environment that all students are entitled to.
- Students demonstrating any of the above behaviors will be immediately sent out of the classroom and to the office. An afterschool detention would then be served.

Grading Percentages

- All percentages are an approximation. The actual percentages may change due to the number of assignments given in a quarter.
- Students will keep a record of their scores on a grade record sheet in their notebook.

Bellwork	10%	Quizzes	15%
Homework	15%	Tests	25%
Labs and Projects	15%	Student Portfolio	10%
Responsibility Grade	10%		

Final Exam 10% (of final average for the year)

Late Assignments

- Assignments count as late if they are not turned in at the beginning of class.
- Five percent per day will be deducted from the grade. Assignments more than one week late past the due date will be marked a zero. Extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration.
- Turn late assignments into the LATE WORK box at the front of the classroom.
- Passes will not be given out to go to your locker to retrieve homework!
- A parent/guardian will be notified if the student repeatedly has late or missing work.

Absence Procedure

- When you are absent, check with the website to find out what you missed. You are responsible for your work -- not the teacher, not your friends, not your parents. Class worksheets are kept in the WORKSHEET BINDER by the door.
- You are also highly encouraged to call the school the morning of your absence to complete a HOMEWORK REQUEST. Worksheets and assignments from that day will be available for pick-up at the end of the day.
- Reschedule with the teacher any tests or quizzes you may have missed within 2 days of returning.
- Work not turned in will result in a zero.
- You will have until the end of the week to complete your missed work and/or labs. Write "absent" on the top of your work and turn it into the LATE BOX.

Cell Phone Policy

- If a student should enter the classroom with a cell phone on his/her person the cell phone must be OFF and OUT OF SIGHT.
- If a cell phone is used or in sight during the class period it will be confiscated until the end of the day and retrieved from the Main Office.

I reserve the right to alter the course guidelines and procedures throughout the year as I see best fitting for the needs of the students.

To: Parent/Guardian of 8th Grade Physical Science Student:

In class this past week I have explained the course requirements, expectations, and procedures as stated within the 8th Grade Physical Science Course Guidelines and Procedures handout with your student. As your student's first homework assignment they are to go over this handout with you, answer any questions that you may have, and return to me at the beginning of class on Monday, September 12th, 2011.

This signature page will be kept on file with me until the end of the school year so that misunderstandings will be kept to a minimum.

Student:

In class the contents of the 8th Grade Physical Science Course Guidelines and Procedures were explained to me. I read the attached 8th Grade Physical Science Course Guidelines and Procedures with a parent/guardian and I understand the information presented within it.

Student Name Printed

Date

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian:

I have read the attached 8th Grade Physical Science Course Guidelines and Procedures handout with my student and understand the information presented within it.

Parent/Guardian Name Printed

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Thank you very much for your cooperation. I look forward to the coming school year and the opportunity to better get to know you and your student.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sciole
8th Grade Science Teacher
Stafford Middle School