

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome back! My name is Kim Kocaya and your student is enrolled in my science class this term. This is my 4th year at Bella Vista Middle School and I am looking forward to a great school year! I love science and hope to share my love of science with your student. I plan on making your child's learning experience interesting and exciting.



This year has taken on some new challenges as we move to online learning including technical issues, adapting to an unfamiliar learning platform, and uncertainty about the future. As an 8th grade science team we want to assure you that we are going to do our very best to provide a meaningful learning experience for your student. We hope that you will communicate and partner with us as we move forward.

With that in mind, please understand that we are parents with our own kids learning at home and experiencing some of the same challenges. As such, we know that we need to extend grace to our students and families and ask for the same in return. One of our concerns for everyone is maintaining a healthy work/school-home balance. One way that we will implement this is by logging off in the evenings, this might be a good strategy for students as well. We appreciate your patience and understanding if we do not respond right away to communications, but will do our best to reply within 24 hours.

Please take some time to review the course syllabus that is attached as it will highlight important aspects and expectations of their science class. We will use Canvas this year as part of your student's digital learning experience. Since Canvas is a new learning management system for both students and teachers, we appreciate your consideration as we get it fully operational. In addition to a functional device and earbuds/headphones, we recommend that each student has a 100-page composition notebook and a writing implement (preferably multiple colors) each day. If you need any assistance obtaining these items, please let it be known.

As your student's teacher, I am excited to begin this year with your child. I hope they will develop a better understanding of science, and learn to truly enjoy the subject. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Also, if there is anything you believe I should be aware of regarding your child, please let me know. Meeting the needs of each student is very important to me.

I look forward to seeing you at our virtual Back to School Night.

Sincerely,

Kim Kocaya  
Science Teacher  
Science Olympiad Coach