

Mrs. K. Brown

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Voicemail: 763-506-5856

www.anoka.k12.mn.us

(Academics, Classroom Pages, Science, Kristine Brown)

(Click on "Homework Updates")



8th Grade Earth Science Syllabus

Welcome to 8th grade Earth Science! This year we will explore the mysteries of our Earth and universe—past, present and future. This syllabus is meant to inform you about what to expect for this class. After reading this together (parent/guardian and student), please fill-out and sign the bottom slip and return it to class within one week.

FOR ACCELERATED EARTH SCIENCE COURSE:

Information that follows will be the same for all my Earth science courses as they contain the same curriculum, textbooks, policies and expectations. In contrast to the general Earth science course, the additional goal of the accelerated science course is to make deeper understandings through higher levels of critical thinking, discussions and different projects. As a result, class pacing, class activities and individual homework may be different yet will focus on the same state standards. **NOTE:** Accelerated science students will be required to complete a **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Project**, and some class time will be provided. Students will be encouraged to attend the district STEM Fair in January but it will not be required.

Instructor Information and Communication:

Please feel free to contact me at any point during the school year with any questions or concerns. I am able to meet with you to answer any questions or give extra help before school; however, please make arrangements ahead of time to ensure that I am available.

- Email: kristine.brown@anoka.k12.mn.us
- Voicemail: 763-506-5856 (Please note that I will not answer calls during instructional time)
- Website: www.anoka.k12.mn.us, Academics, Classroom Pages, Science, Kristine Brown; click on "Homework Updates"

Course Description and Goals:

This year we will be focusing on Earth science—the study of the Earth! Throughout the year we will integrate the practice and nature of science and engineering with our other topics and learn these concepts in an Earth science context.

The following is a summary of what students will come to understand.

- **Practice and Nature of Science and Engineering:** students will understand that science is a way of knowing about the world through scientific inquiry using multiple skills to design and conduct investigations through current technology. Students will also understand interactions between science, engineering and technology.
- **Matter:** students will understand the structure of matter and its characteristics, including chemical and physical changes, elements, particle theory of matter, mixtures and pure substances.
- **Astronomy:** students will understand Earth's position and its interaction in the solar system and its place in the universe, including the Sun, Moon, rotation and seasons.
- **Geology:** students will understand the patterns of change and constancy in the Earth and its history, including plate tectonics, weathering and erosion of landforms, minerals, rocks and rock layers.
- **Meteorology:** students will understand the patterns of change and constancy in the Earth's atmosphere and climate, including composition and structure, wind systems and ocean currents, energy transfer, moisture content, weather patterns and predictions.

Textbooks:

This year we will use two textbooks: Earth Science and Matter and Energy published by McDougal-Littell, 2006.

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The textbook can also be accessed online. Go to <http://www.classzone.com/eservices>, enter activation code CLASS2697584, click "submit", then "register", and make a username and password. Please write these down so you can use them later.

Materials for Each Class:

One notebook and folder exclusive to science

Pencils/pens

School planner

Completed assignments

Textbook (should be left at home)

Grading Policy:

I have high expectations for all students and expect everyone's personal best, and I believe all students can reach their desired grade through hard work! The grading scale is as follows:

A: 100-90% B: 89-80% C: 79-70% D: 69-60% F: 59% and below

Course grades are determined on a weighted scale as follows:

Tests/quizzes/other assessments--70%

Homework/class work/participation--20%

Trimester final--10%

By having an assessment-based grading system, grades are better aligned with the grading policy set by the district (as shown on the back of students' grey envelopes and in the district handbook). For example, an A (90-100%) means "demonstrates exceptional application of all critical learnings"; a B (80-89%) means "demonstrates application of most critical learnings"; a C (70-79%) means "demonstrates application of some critical learnings"; and a D (60-69%) means "demonstrates application of a few critical learnings". **There are no extra credit opportunities.** Students may earn a higher grade by completing retakes and doing better on assessments.

Assessments:

Assessments include all quizzes, tests, some labs, and some projects. Some assessments will be projects where students can show their knowledge in a different format other than a paper/pencil test. After quizzes, retakes will be available (based on teacher discretion) after students have shown to re-learn the material. The reason for this is students need to learn the material, regardless how long it takes.

Homework Policy:

Even though homework will count for less of a student's grade, it is still important that the homework is completed to help the learning take place. Students will do better on the assessments if the prior work and learning have taken place. I expect students to do all homework assignments and to turn them in on time. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. We will have "Unit Homework" where each student receives a sheet at the beginning of the unit explaining all that is due at the end of the unit, and this will account for the majority of homework.

Retakes:

Each quiz retake is allowed by teacher discretion. In order to retake a quiz or test, students are required to show that they have relearned the material. Students must complete a retake form; this includes answering specific questions, reading the book, study time, etc. During this "remediation/relearning" time, students are

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also encouraged to come to me with any questions or for one-on-one tutoring. Last, students need to schedule a retake time (before school, during Pathways, during study hall) and turn in their retake ("remediation/relearning") form, which will show me what they have done to re-learn the material. **There will be no quiz retakes available the last two weeks of each trimester.**

Online Grades:

When you look at science grades on School Center (call 763-506-HELP to get registered to check grades on-line for all courses), you will notice that quizzes and some tests are separated by standards. Even if the student took one quiz, it could be separated into two or three mini-grades. This is to show the student what s/he needs to work on and which sections of the quiz need to be retaken. The entire quiz does not have to be retaken. **The goal is that each student will pass each quiz, whether it is the first, second or third time, and then master the final district unit assessment because all previous parts have been learned.**

Make-up Policy:

Work that was assigned before you were absent should be ready to be turned in upon arrival back to school. You will be given two days to make up any work that was assigned when you were absent. When you return from being absent, you will need to check your "We Missed You" pink sheet and with a peer for explanations or to get any missed notes. Once you complete this process, I will be happy to help you with any questions that you have. It is the student's responsibility to check on any missed work and to make-up all learning and assignments on time.

Classroom Expectations:

Be kind and respectful to all others and equipment.

Always do your personal best.

Be prepared for class: ready to learn, on-time, with materials and completed assignments.

Abide by all school and classroom policies and procedures.

Discipline Policy:

Students are expected to follow by all school and classroom expectations. The first violation will result in a reminder and continuing offenses can result in a visit to the planning center, a meeting with the teacher, a phone call home, and/or a referral.

Please fill out completely and return **ONLY** this bottom portion to the teacher. Students, put the rest of the syllabus in your science folder.

I, _____, have read Mrs. Brown's entire syllabus.

(Print student's full name)

(Student's signature)

Date: _____

(Parent/Guardian's signature)

Date: _____

Yes/No: My child has internet access at home for academic purposes.

NOTE: Please return the bottom section of this page by Wednesday, September 10, 2014.