August 29, 2022

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Ms. Miller’s 8th grade Science class! I am originally from Savannah, Georgia. I graduated from Shaw University, in Raleigh, North Carolina where I obtained my degree in Biology. This will be my fourth year at Allen Middle School, and I am excited to be a part of this learning community and play a pivotal role in your success this school year.

This year we will be investigating many interesting topics, such as earth’s history, evolution and genetics, earth’s water, ecosystems, microbiology, and many other interesting topics. All topics that will be explored/investigated are aligned with The North Carolina Essential Standards found on the North Carolina Department of Education web site (8th grade Science PDF file pages 6-10) <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/curriculum/science/scos/support-tools/new-standards/science/6-8.pdf>.

It is important that all my students and parents/guardians are aware of daily and overall expectations to ensure the most successful school year possible. My first and greatest expectation is that every student will work hard to succeed in class. I expect effort from every student and to encourage consistent effort, a portion of the overall grade will be derived from class involvement. A significant portion of the school year will be spent working in groups and completing hands-on activities, so participation will be a very important key to each student’s success in my classroom.

Secondly, I expect my students to take pride in their schoolwork and to come to class prepared to learn daily. Each student will be assigned a locker as well as a lock. If the lock is lost student will be responsible for the replacement fee. Each student will need a **green composition notebook.** The composition/spiral notebook will be used to house all class notes and assignments. We will go through and discuss the expectations of the composition notebook over the first few weeks of school. It is important that each student bring it to class every day and keep it organized.

**My homework policies & philosophies:**

* I give homework as a means of assessing previously learned skills. It will be graded daily.
* You can expect your student to have reasonable amounts of homework assigned Monday-Thursday!

The major materials your child will need to succeed in my class are:

* **4 GREEN single subject composition notebook - one for each quarter**
* Plenty of pencils!!
* 2 packs of index cards (100 count)
* 3 packs of loose leaf paper
* Ink pens (blue and black)
* USB- Flash drive
* Highlighters

**Optional items:**

* Clorox wipes
* Hand sanitizer
* Tissue

**Guilford County’s Grading Policy and Allen Middle School Grading Scale Policy:**

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

59 or lower = F

Classwork/Homework: 30%

Quizzes/Projects: 30%

Tests: 40%

**Classroom Expectations:**

* Requirements:
  + Being on time for class with materials ready.
  + Respect yourself, your peers, your teacher, and your surroundings.
  + Raise your hand silently to speak.
  + Follow all directions quickly the first time.
  + No cell phones: Cell phones should be secured-not seen (in pockets, print), viewed in use or heard (Located in the handbook: Rule 27-b).

\*\*\*\* All visible cell phones will be confiscated and held in the main office. First offense will be 24 hours, second offense will be 48 hours, and the third offense will be held for 72 hours.

**Our discipline policy is as follows:**

* 1st offense = Verbal warning
* 2nd offense = Move seat(s)
* 3rd offense = Parent contact and silent lunch
* 4th offense = Student/Teacher/Parent/Administrator group conference
* 5th offense = After School Detention
* 6th offense = Referral to principal

**Our tardy policy is as follows:**

* 3 unexcused tardies = Silent lunch & parent contact
* 6 unexcused tardies = After school detention & parent contact
* 9 unexcused tardies = Referral to principal & parent contact

**Missed work due to absence:**

* I give students 3 days to collect and turn in missed work. When a child is absent for more than one day, their time is extended by 1 day for every day missed.
* Full credit is given to missed work for absences.

**Turning in late work:**

* If a student does not turn in homework on time, they will be given 1 additional day to do so. However, the highest possible grade will be a 70.

**Lenovo Notebooks** will be used daily in class. Most class assignments, projects, and assessments will be completed digitally through an online portal, Canvas. Students are expected to abide by all school and district digital safety rules and guidelines. Failure to do so will result in loss of privileges.

Please look over your child’s science notebook and become involved in what is going on in class. Parents and teachers are partners in a child’s academic success, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone or e-mail at (336) 294-7325 ext. 1654 or [milleri@gcsnc.com](mailto:milleri@gcsnc.com). I look forward to working with you this school year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Miller

8th Grade Science Teacher

Please sign legibly, date, and return this portion after reading. Thank You.

**8th Grade Science Class Expectations Letter**

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Student’s Name (Print)                                                                                    Student’s Email Address

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                                                                           Student’s Signature and Date

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Parent’s Name (Print)                                                                                         Parent’s Email Address

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                       Parent’s Signature and Date