

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year here at Meadow Park Middle School and Meredith Vanden Berg's Science Class. I hope you will find this class syllabus helpful in understanding what we will be learning and how your child's achievement will be determined and reported. I have also included behavioral expectations.

Academic Learning Targets for 8th grade science. This is what we will be learning. Learning Targets have been developed for every subject / class for the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Targets are intended to clearly identify and align the expected learning. These targets are consistent across all 8 of the Beaverton middle schools. Our learning targets this year are as follows:

Interaction and Change. We will look at Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Plate Tectonics. The kids will examine the Earth-Sun-Moon system and learn Astronomy. Also under I&C will be Ecology, Change Over Time (Evolution), Motion and Energy Transformation.

Structure and Function. We will journey into Earth's layers, study the physical properties of matter, and look at metric measurement.

Engineering. The kids will explore and create solutions to problems. They will need to examine criteria, constraints, trade-offs, etc.

Science Inquiry. Here students will be given a question, and must come up with an hypothesis. They will write a procedure, follow that procedure, examine and display their data, and write an analysis.

Rubrics. This is how we will judge student progress on the learning targets and provide feedback to students on what must be done to improve their proficiency or mastery of the learning. Please see the rubrics associated with the learning targets for this class.

Personal Management / Behavior Learning Targets. This is what we expect of all students.

Students will come to class ready to learn with needed school supplies (i.e. binder, writing utensil, textbook, journal).

Students are expected to do their best on all assignments. With proficiency grading, it is important for students to show their mastery of learning targets by using and showing complete and thorough thinking.