



8th grade science

2020-2021

with

Ms. Fuchigami!

Welcome! This is a year like no other, but I am happy to be experiencing it with all the wonderful students I have met so far in my classes! Thank you for sharing them with me!

Curriculum:

8th grade content opens with Conservation of Mass, including atomic structure, physical and chemical changes, solubility, and the balance between reactants and products. We will then go on to Genetics, with variation and diversity followed by a stop in ecosystems before Winter Break. When we come back in January, we will be doing a quick tour into Motion and Physics followed by their application in Our Place in Space. And we will finish our year with the Work of Waves and then wrap everything together in an investigation into weather and climate.

Grading:

There are three categories in the gradebook. Assessments are weighted at 40% of a student's grade, Content Progress at another 40%, and Work Habits at 20%. Assessments and Content Progress grades may be redone up to 90% of the assignment's value. Assignments in Work Habits may not be redone for a higher score. Re-do time is usually Fridays, but can be arranged after school if Fridays are not an option. Re-done work has a 2 week window for completion after posting in Infinite Campus, please encourage prompt action on re-done work! In my experience, kids will procrastinate to the point where work can no longer be re-done, then come up with all sorts of reasons why they should still be allowed to re-do it after the deadline.

Gradebook:

The “official” gradebook is Infinite Campus. You can access it through Parent Portal. All district report cards are generated from Infinite Campus, not the Google Classroom gradebook. While you can check both gradebooks, keep in mind that the official gradebook is Infinite Campus.

Late work:

While we are being generous with deadlines at the beginning of the year, eventually late work will lose 1 point for every 10 it is worth. This means that a 10 point assignment would only be entered at 9 points and a 20 point assignment would go in at 18. It should be noted that 9/10 and 18/20 are still both “A” grades, so while some small value is subtracted for being late, late work can still earn an “A” if it is done without errors. 8th graders have a 6 day window for late work. Once the window has closed, that assignment will no longer be accepted for a grade.

Getting some help:

Students can get help at the end of each class time, or on Fridays, or, as the year progresses and the kids are more comfortable in their routines, we will implement break-out rooms online or create small groups (socially distanced) in the classroom. I am also available by email:

Kathleen.Fuchigami@jeffco.k12.co.us

Please feel welcome to open a conversation! I raised two boys, one graduated from Conifer High, going on to earn his Marine Biology degree from the University of Hawaii, Manoa and the other from Evergreen High, going on to be a Junior this year at the Colorado School of Mines. We parents need to stick together, and if it takes a village, I sure appreciate you being in the “hut next door”!

How can you help?

My big instructional goal this year is to encourage your students to look at the interconnectivity of science in their world. 8th grade is the last year for students to see a variety of topics and to wonder how they all fit together. High school classes are grouped by discipline, like Biology, or Chemistry, or Physics, and when they are taught in a self-contained way, kids lose sight of the connections between the disciplines. Encourage your students to share what’s going on in class, to watch some documentaries, watch the news and to make those connections between what they see in science class and what is happening in their world.

