



UNION GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

Welcome Union Grove students and families to 8th Grade Science Class!

My name is William Spaulding and I am excited to be teaching your students this school year! I graduated from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelors in Geology and Environmental studies and a Masters in Teacher Education, where I focused on Middle Grade Education. While at UT, I had the opportunity to work through some amazing projects. My favorite research included mapping the landing site for the Mars 2020 Perseverance rover.

Having worked in outdoor education and programming for ten years, I see myself as a facilitator to discovery, empowering students to find information they need and guiding them along the way. I'm also a firm believer in hands-on learning. I am very excited to be able to use hands-on experiments, labs and activities with your students this school year.

As we begin our school year and start the adventure of learning, I want to make sure that all my students and their parents know what to expect this year in our classroom. Included you will find the syllabus that I've provided the students.

If you have any questions about the syllabus (provided below) or your child's progress in class, please don't hesitate to reach out. The best way for students and parents to reach me is through my email: William.Spaulding@blountk12.org

Here's to a successful and healthy school year!

Sincerely,

William Russell Spaulding II

William R. Spaulding II



UNION GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

2023-24 Science Syllabus

Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to follow the Union Grove Middle School Student Code of Conduct, included in this syllabus, as well as, be respectful, creative and encouraging to all. While in science students should be prepared for the day and engaged in the lesson.

Missing Class

Students and parents should follow the attendance policies outlined in the student handbook regarding absences. Students are encouraged to reach out via email if they miss class or are struggling to complete make-up work in a timely manner. Upon returning from an absence, will have five (5) days to complete any missing assignments before points are deducted for lateness.

Communication

Please do not hesitate to reach out by email or school phone if you have any questions or concerns! Parents/Guardians should consider signing up for “Guardian Summaries” on Google Classroom, to help be more aware of upcoming or missing assignments.

Union Grove Middle School



Student Code of Conduct



Regular Attendance

Students are expected to attend school regularly and to attend all classes.

Punctuality

Students are expected to be on time for school and classes.

Work Habits

Students are expected to be prepared for and to participate in each class to meet performance standards

Respectful Behavior

Students are expected to be honest, and do the right thing in treating other with respect and courtesy.

Freedom from Fear

Students are expected to contribute to a safe school environment free from fear. Acts of violence weapons and contraband are never acceptable.

8th Grade Science Topics		
Physical Science	Earth and Space Science	Life Science
Magnetism and Electromagnetism	The Universe and its stars	Adaptation and Natural Selection
Motion, Forces and their Interactions	Earth's place in the Solar System, Structure and Dynamics	The Fossil Record & Common Ancestry
Waves and their Applications	Geology, Natural Resources and Hazards	Technology and artificial selection

Coursework and Grading

Student grades will be updated on Powerschool on a regular basis. To the best of my ability I will include comments or descriptions on assignments. Assignments that have not been turned in will be marked as "Late", but no grade will be entered. If the assignment has not been turned in by the next time grades are entered, the assignment will be marked as "Missing" and a 0 will be entered into the gradebook. Students will still be able to complete and turn in "missing" assignments for partial credit, regardless of how late they are. Anything is better than a zero!

I will post all the assignments on Google Classroom. On Google Classroom you can also find great resources and links to the various supplemental websites we will use in class. Assignments will be posted with a due date and points will be taken off of assignments for late submissions. The coursework for my classes is split into the following categories:

Classwork - 25 Points Per assignment

- Classwork consists of graded assignments that are due in class.
- Some assignments may be completed at home, if not finished in class

Participation - Points Vary

- Participation is very important to me and integral to your success in class. Even if you are shy or not actively participating in class discussion, you will still have a chance to participate with exit tickets and bell ringers.
- Participation opportunities will be offered daily, in class.
- Students that actively participate in my class tend to have higher grades and do much better on graded assignments and projects.

Home Learning- 5 Points Per assignment

I view homework as supplemental to instruction given in class, for some topics homework will be needed, but not for all. Homework is **not always due the next day**, so pay attention to when it is assigned. I have adopted this policy because homework should be helpful, not burdensome and middle school students are often involved in activities after school; some nights of the week may be better for homework than others.

Quizzes - 50 Points Per assignment

Quizzes are graded assignments that both the students and I will use to gauge their progress and understanding of a topic. For every Chapter we cover we have, the students should expect about 2 quizzes.

At the end of each quarter students will also receive a quiz grade based on their overall participation in classroom discussions, activities and bell ringers/exit tickets for that quarter.

Celebrations of Learning (COLS) and Labs - 100 Points Per assignment

Celebrations of Learnings are opportunities for students to celebrate what they have discovered and learned during a Chapter of study. Every Chapter we cover will have either a COL or Lab associated with it. Students will know about these COLs ahead of time and we will spend time in class preparing and reviewing. While I work to alleviate the stress of test taking, I understand that some students still struggle with them, as such I allow for partial credit to be regained on all COLs, as the student wishes. Some labs will require a Pre-Lab homework assignment, due the day of the Lab. **Students cannot participate in or complete the Lab if they have not done the Pre-Lab.**

Quarter Exams and Projects - 300 Points Per assignment

Each Quarter there will be an end-of-quarter assessment that covers every topic from the previous nine-weeks. Students will be given time to review and study in class.

A few units of study will culminate with an in-class project that takes multiple days to complete. These projects are done in groups but can also be completed independently. These projects allow students to demonstrate their knowledge about the Chapter of study.

Please cut a long line, sign and date below and return to Mr. Spaulding.

By signing I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Procedures and Expectations for Science Class as well as the Union Grove Middle School Code of Conduct

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____