



# Chimacum Middle School

## Eighth Grade Science

### Course Information:

Welcome back to Mr. G's Science! I really enjoy getting to teach 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science because I get to work with students again after having worked with them in 6<sup>th</sup> grade! I get the pleasure of working with kids their first year of middle school and their last year of middle school! :)

This year we will continue working with the middle school science curriculum called IQWST (pronounced *eye-quest*), which stands for *Investigating and Questioning our World through Science and Technology*. The curriculum is based on the very latest research on how people learn, and how students learn science in particular.

Readings will accompany many of our lessons, and will help students to understand the science more deeply. Always, the readings support students in understanding the language (vocabulary) used in science and how it compares to the ways in which we use words like *mass* or *volume* or *property* in our everyday speech. In the same book as their readings are the pages we will use in class, called "Activity Sheets" that are like a science notebook or workbook.

The workbooks require students to make predictions and record their data, but also to answer questions that support them in thinking about activities and connecting what they learned in previous lessons to new ideas. In their readings, everything that students do in class is also connected to their own experiences. Our first unit is all about weather and with smoke that has been blown our way recently, this is a timely topic!

Please encourage your child to ask questions and not to be afraid to talk about ideas—wrong ideas lead to important learning in science! Ask your child about what they did in class and what they learned from it, or what new questions an activity made them think about. To follow up their reading, ask, "What's the most interesting thing you read about?" Or, "What's one thing you learned from that reading that you didn't know before?" If you wish to support your child by reading with him or her, always stop and answer the questions in the book together.

As always, if you have questions regarding our new curriculum or what is required of your child, please contact Al Gonzalez at [al\\_gonzalez@csd49.org](mailto:al_gonzalez@csd49.org) or message Al through Bloomz.

### Course Outline:

LEVEL 3	Earth Science	Life Science	Physical Science	Intro to Chemistry
	<i>What Makes the Weather Change?</i> Atmospheric processes in weather and climate	<i>Why Do Organisms Look the Way they Do?</i> Heredity and natural selection	<i>How Will It Move?</i> Force and motion	<i>How Does Food Provide My Body with Energy?</i> Chemical reactions in living things

Here are the units all 8th graders will be learning this year. Each unit will last about one quarter.

### **Progress Reporting and Skyward:**

You can check Skyward at the end of each quarter to see how your child is doing in Science. If you want to know before the end of the quarter how your child is doing, here's what you can check:

- Your child will use Classcraft and Google Classroom to complete the IQWST lessons and submit online work so you can check those two to see what your child is learning.
- You can also email, call, or message Mr. Gonzalez on Bloomz.
- Here is some more information on Classcraft (scan the QR code below or type the goo.gl link into your phone or browser):



Classcraft Info: [goo.gl/MFKc5f](http://goo.gl/MFKc5f)

- If you are new to Bloomz or need a refresher, check out the resources below (type the bit.ly link in the same way you type a goo.gl link):



Bloomz Intro:  
[bit.ly/StartBloomz](http://bit.ly/StartBloomz)



How to use Bloomz:  
[bit.ly/UsingBloomz](http://bit.ly/UsingBloomz)

### **Student Expectations:**

As in 6th grade, students will be given the privilege and the important responsibility to take a great deal of ownership over how their time is spent in class only more so because they are getting ready for high school. Planning and managing time and workload takes self-control and motivation. These skills are essential for student success in middle school, high school, and college, as well as being a contributing member of our society. Success depends largely on how hard a person works. Even if we're not good at something by working hard at it and practicing and getting better we will succeed. In order to get better at something mistakes will happen. So in Science I value hard work and taking risks without fear of failure because that's how we learn and improve. When it comes to working together the key word is **RESPECT**. So my hope is that in this class students will show respect to me, to each other, to any guests in our school, and of course to you, their parents. Our school expectations for all students are that they **Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe!**

Fly like Eagles!

*Al González*