



Ms. Nichols  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science  
Information Sheet  
2013-2014

**BOOKMARK MY WEBPAGE ON YOUR HOME  
COMPUTER**

For information about this class go the class  
website: My website is still under construction

<http://earthsciencenichols.wikispaces.com/>

Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> grade Earth Science! We have so many fascinating topics to explore this year. I look forward to meeting you and learning about your summer, learning goals, hopes and fears for 8<sup>th</sup> grade science, and any burning questions you have about Earth Science. I have two young boys Jake 8 and Alex 6 that keep me on my toes when I am not learning with you. When I have time to do my favorite things, I read Lord of the Rings to Jake and Berenstain Bears to Alex, hike in the White Mountains with my family and sing songs with anyone while someone plays acoustical guitar.

This year will be a challenge for many of you as we push each other to really understand how the Earth works and not just memorize answers. Remember we are in this together. It's your job to ask questions and my job to figure out how to answer them. If my answer doesn't make sense to, don't give up on me. Keep asking until I can really explain it in a way that makes you feel confident that you could explain the concept to someone else.

Thank you for your efforts this year,

Ms. Nichols

Here are some answers to questions you may have... Other questions you have, please ask 😊

#### What will I learn this year in science?

- ⇒ Geosphere (Earth) - Evolution, Fossils, Geologic Time, Plate Tectonics, Rocks, Minerals, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Earth's Interior, Movement of Earth's crust, Glaciers, Weathering, Erosion.
- ⇒ Atmosphere - Composition, Greenhouse Effect, Heat Transfer, Evaporation/Condensation/.Precipitation, Water Cycle, Air Pressure, Winds, Weather, Clouds, Climate Change
- ⇒ Astronomy - The Seasons, Lunar Phases, Orbits, Solar System, Sun, Stars, Constellations, Galaxies, the Universe, the Big-Bang Theory

#### How will I be evaluated in Science Class?

- ⇒ Your grade is based on a total points system. I will keep a record of the points you earn on each assignment out of the possible points. At the end of the term the number of points you earn will be divided by the number of possible points.

What's the assignment?	How much is it worth?
Homework	2-10
In class assignments/lab activities	2-25
Quizzes	25-50
Tests	50-150
Projects	50-150
Thought Questions	20-60

#### What does Ms. Nichols expect of me every day?

- ⇒ Complete your homework at home and bring it to class the next day.
- ⇒ Arrive to class on time ready to learn with your folder, planner, pencil, and homework.
- ⇒ Be prepared to learn, ask questions and participate in class
- ⇒ Raise your hand, and wait to be called on when you have something to say.

- ⇒ Use your best effective effort in your work and when you work with others
- ⇒ **Respect and Listen** to your classmates and teacher. **Do Not** interrupt others.

### **How much homework is there in 8<sup>th</sup> grade science?**

- ⇒ You should expect to have homework almost every day. Some of the homework will be completed and submitted online in It's Learning. Other homework will be completed on paper and brought to class the next day. All homework is due prior to the start of class. You should plan on between 20-30 minutes of science homework almost every night.

### **What if I miss work?**

- ⇒ You have 1 week to make up a test or a quiz if you are absent. You must see me outside of class time to arrange the make-up time, and go over information you missed!
- ⇒ If you know that you are going to be absent for a family or medical reason, I expect you to get work that you will miss **BEFORE** the absence if it is available.
- ⇒ You will lose points on homework assignments/projects that are late. The amount of points lost will depend on how late the assignment is and how many points it is worth. (Points will not be deducted for late work due to absence)

### **What do I need to bring with me to class EVERY DAY?**

- ⇒ Pencil
- ⇒ Planner
- ⇒ Your color coded science folder or an accordion folder (Personally, I prefer these as all papers are in one place for all classes and not left in your locker)
- ⇒ Your completed homework
- ⇒ **DO NOT BRING YOUR TEXTBOOK TO CLASS!**

### **What should I put in my portfolio? (1 inch size 3-ring binder, to stay in the classroom)**

- ⇒ White lined paper
- ⇒ Important class work completed throughout the year
- ⇒ You will use this binder to assemble a portfolio demonstrating what you have learned.
- ⇒ This binder should stay in class, on the class bookshelf in my room.
- ⇒ You will need to file papers in the proper section when given time in class.

### **How will class be run each day?**

- ⇒ Each day you will come into class and follow a similar routine. You will complete the "Do Now" when you come to class. The agenda for the day will be written on the board. We will do a combination of lab activities, group-work, independent work and note-taking throughout the course of the year.

### **What is a "Do Now" in science like?**

- ⇒ Here is an example of directions for a "Do Now":
  - Write down tonight's homework in your planner
  - Pick up the day's handouts at the back of the room
  - Sit with your assigned buddy from your buddy sheet
  - Compare and correct last night's homework with your buddy before turning it in to the class inbox

**I have read and understand this info about Science Class this year. I have also bookmarked the class webpage on my computer at home. Show me this sheet tomorrow in class for credit and then file it in your class folder where you can find it for reference in the future.**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_