

**Course Title:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science (Earth Science)  
**Instructors:** Mrs. Paskievitch  
**Textbooks:** Holt Science and Technology Series

**Units:**

1. Earth Systems: Interaction of 4 major systems (Geosphere, Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, Biosphere), Energy in Earth Systems,
2. The Solid Earth: Rock Cycle, Interior of the Earth, Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes
3. The Earth in Space and Time: The Sun, Earth History and Geologic Time, Astronomy
4. Hydrology

The textbook has a rich bank of science content and plenty of examples to help make that content relevant to daily life. In addition, the informational text in the book provides vocabulary and reinforcement reading that supplement our lessons. By mastering these concepts & terms, students will gain a solid base in Earth Science. Students will also have many opportunities to reinforce, extend and apply what has been learned with fun, meaningful investigations and activities.

**Goals:** My goal is to create a classroom environment that will help students to .....

- build a solid science vocabulary
- gain a strong understanding of key scientific principles & topics
- understand how science is related to other disciplines.
- see science as worthwhile and meaningful
- develop thinking skills and the ability to challenge assumptions, think creatively and solve real-life problems.
- Have fun!

### Course Requirements/Suggested Materials:

1. You must be an active participant in your learning process. Science is NOT a spectator sport. You are encouraged to participate during class discussions.
2. Teamwork will be required on most activities.
3. 2-pocket folder to keep papers
4. science journal (spiral notebook or composition journal)
5. notebook paper
6. pencils and blue/black ink pen for work
7. markers, crayons, or colored pencils

### Grading Scale:

A 93-100%	B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D+ 67-69%
A- 90-92%	B 83-86%	C 73-76%	D 63-66%
	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%	D- 60-62%
			E below 60%

Grades are based on two categories: 1. Performance (this includes all types of summative and formative assessments and is 80% of the overall grade) and 2. Practice (20% of overall grade). We will be creating learning targets for each unit and work TOGETHER to achieve mastery of these learning targets. Students will be assessed (formatively) on these targets prior to the end of the unit.

Please feel free to email me anytime with questions or concerns. Parent communication and involvement is key to helping my 8<sup>th</sup> graders be successful this year at SMS.

Thank you for sharing your child with me this year! We are going to learn, grow and have fun together!

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