

Welcome to
8th Grade Earth Science

at Forest Lake Area Middle School

Teacher Contact Information

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Class Website: www.mrslindell.com

Course Overview

8th Grade Earth Science is divided into units as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Matter & Measurement | 4. Weathering & Erosion | 7. Water |
| 2. Plate Tectonics | 5. Geologic Time | 8. Meteorology |
| 3. Rocks & Minerals | 6. Astronomy | |

Advanced Earth Science will be offered to any student who wishes to participate. Details will be provided during the first few weeks of school. Please see the class website for additional information on course content, including essential learning outcomes, learning targets, and vocabulary.

Textbook: Prentice Hall Earth Science, 2006 Edition. Students will be issued a textbook to take home. There will be a classroom set of textbooks available for student use during class. * \$75 replacement fee if lost or damaged

Materials Supplied by Student - the following items should be brought to class **every day**:

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Pencil with Eraser (2) | • Composition Notebook * | • Colored Pencils (Not Required) |
| • 3-Ring Binder or Folder * | • Calculator (Not Required) | • Planner/Agenda |

* These materials should be used specifically for Science class and are not meant to be shared with other classes.

Science Notebooks

Students will need to bring a single subject composition notebook to class **every day** to take notes, record data, and create lab reports. It is very important that students follow the correct format and keep their notebooks updated. Notebooks may be collected and graded periodically.

Methods of Study:

Science is a collaborative endeavor; this course will use a variety of instructional methods with the overall goal of having students engage in authentic scientific inquiry and processes. Methods include laboratory investigations, cooperative learning groups, class discussions, computer-assisted activities, and research projects.

Discipline Procedures

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Individual Discussion with Mrs. Lindell | 3. Lunch or After School Detention |
| 2. Parent or Guardian Contact | 4. Office Referral |

Technology In The Classroom

Students are generally not allowed to use mobile devices or headphones during class or passing time. Phones should be on silent and out of sight, and headphones should be put away. In the first instance a student uses technology when not specifically directed to, it is confiscated for the remainder of the class period. In the second instance, it is confiscated for the remainder of the school day. In the third instance, it is confiscated and a parent or guardian must come to the school to pick it up. Research has clearly shown that technology use during learning distracts not only the user, but fellow classmates as well - and leads to a decrease in exam performance.¹

¹Arnold L. Glass & Mengxue Kang (2018) Dividing attention in the classroom reduces exam performance, Educational Psychology, DOI: [10.1080/01443410.2018.1489046](https://doi.org/10.1080/01443410.2018.1489046)

Participation

Students will be expected to participate fully in all class discussions, group work, labs, and activities. A majority of activities will involve collaborating in groups. Students should follow all classroom and school rules during group activities. Students who miss labs, tests, or quizzes will need to arrange a time before or after school to make up the activity. It is the student's responsibility to arrange make-up dates & times. **Bullying and/or academic dishonesty (cheating) of any kind will absolutely not be tolerated and will result in immediate disciplinary action.**

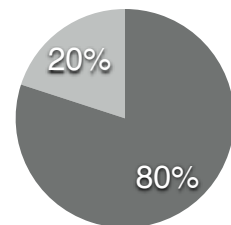
The Path To Success in Science

Be punctual. Be in your seat when the bell rings and have materials out. Read the board for the day's agenda and be ready to work. **Be prepared and organized.** Bring the necessary materials to class every day. If you need to borrow a pencil, quietly ask a neighbor. **Be responsible.** Listen carefully to any instructions given. If you are absent, check the website or "What Did I Miss" area before asking Mrs. Lindell for assistance. **Be an achiever.** Try your hardest & aim for success. Get involved and ask questions. Don't be afraid to make mistakes.

Grading System

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% & below	F

- Academic Achievement
- Academic Practice



Academic Achievement - 80% of Quarter Grade

- Include tests, quizzes, lab assessments, and some individual projects

Academic Practice - 20% of Quarter Grade

- Includes homework, labs, journals, notebook checks, vocabulary, and worksheets

Late Work - all work is expected to be completed and turned in on the due date in order for students to correct work during class, relearn material after it's graded, and participate in class discussions. Completing work on time is essential for understanding the material covered in class, as many topics build upon previous ones. **Work for each unit must be turned in by the day of the unit test, or the score for those assignment(s) will be a zero, and cannot be made up.**

Late work due to absences or special circumstances will be addressed by Mrs. Lindell on an individual basis. Students are responsible for the work missed during an absence and are strongly encouraged to visit the designated locations within the classroom that contain these assignments. Assignments will be available on Parent/StudentView and the class website.

Lab Safety:

Safety in the science lab is **very important**. Students and a parent/guardian are required to read and sign the safety contract before students will be allowed to participate in laboratory activities. Specific safety procedures will be reviewed before every lab activity. Students who violate lab safety rules will be asked to sit out and complete an alternative assignment.

Academic Relearning & Reassessment

Students who do not reach mastery on a quiz or test may relearn the material and complete a retake to potentially improve their score. **Retakes must be competed no later than two weeks from the original assessment, and only when all prior work for that quiz or test has been turned in.** In order to complete a retake, corrections must be made using a Quiz Corrections form. Students must complete retakes before or after school, prearranged with Mrs. Lindell.

Keep this syllabus in your science folder!

Students must follow all school rules & policies, including the district's Student Code of Conduct, while in the classroom.

I have read and discussed with my student the class syllabus for 8th Grade Earth Science.
Due Friday, September 6th.

Student - PRINT Full Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date