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|  | ***2019-2020******8th Grade Science******Quaboag Regional Middle/High School******Ms. Spock, Room 707******E-mail:*** ***kspock@quaboagrsd.org******Classroom Website: mrsspockscience.weebly.com*** |

**Curriculum**

In this course students will explore topics related to the Middle School Physical and Earth Science standards in the newly revised Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Frameworks. This year we will focus on six major themes: 1) Matter and Its Interactions (chemical reactions); 2) Motion and Stability (forces and interactions); 3) Energy (kinetic and potential); 4) Earth’s Place in the Universe (Earth, sun and moon system); 5) Earth’s systems (weather) and 6) Earth and Human Activity (focus on causes of global warming and renewable energy).

In addition, students will have the opportunity to develop important scientific skills that are necessary for success in their high school courses. Specifically, by the end of 8th grade, students should be able to: develop models at varying levels of details and identify their limitations; plan and conduct simple scientific investigations; analyze and interpret data to draw accurate conclusions; construct scientific explanations using evidence, use mathematical and computational thinking, engage in scientific arguments and communicate findings effectively.

Students will also spend time preparing for the MCAS test which is in May. The test also covers material that was learned in their sixth and seventh grade science classes as well as some of their electives (Project Lead the Way and Wood Technology.). To prepare for this test students will be using an on-line software gaming program called **Jognog.** They will be expected to use the program for many homework assignments. **Students can also download the app for this program on a smart phone and Ipad.** If a student does not have access to the internet, they should let me know so other arrangements can be made so they can use this program.

**Classroom Website:** ***mrsspockscience.weebly.com***

The classroom website is a tool that parents can use to find out what their student will be learning as well as important deadlines and test/quiz dates.

**Supplies**

Along with a 1 1/2” binder, students will need to have the following:

* pen or pencil
* a package of colored pencils (12 is fine)
* loose-leaf paper for the binder
* dividers for binder (5 total)
* optional -- pocket folder (for handouts/homework)
* **composition notebook (will be left in the classroom for labs/investigations)**

**Responsibilities in the Lab**

Students are responsible for maintaining the highest safety standards while working in the lab. Students who do not follow established safety guidelines and directions will be removed from lab. Wearing appropriate clothing as well as taking certain measures is imperative, including (but not limited to): tying back long hair, removing jewelry, wearing close-toed shoes, wearing proper protective gear. Students are obligated to follow teacher direction regarding all lab activities.

**Grading**

The final grade for the year is calculated using the term averages, midterm and the final exam. Students are ultimately responsible for their grades and should develop the habit of checking **PowerSchool** to see what grade they have as well as if they are missing any assignments. PowerSchool is updated weekly.

* **Tests/Projects** Tests or a project will be given at the end of a unit. If a student is absent, the test/project must be made within the time specified in the *Quaboag Regional Student/Parent handbook.*
* **Quizzes** – Quizzes are given at the end of a Chapter and throughout the unit. Students will be given several “pop “ quizzes to informally assess understanding during a quarter. **If a student is absent during a “pop” quiz they are not expected to make it up.**
* **Labs/Investigations** are an important part of a student’s science program **and MUST be made up if absent.** Labs/Investigations should be made up after school as soon as possible, preferably within a week. (I have to put materials away and prepare for the next lab/investigation!) If no attempt has been made by the student to make up the assignment they will be assigned a zero.
* **Homework** is assigned 2 – 3 nights a week. It is written on the board every day and it is the student’s responsibility to write it in their agenda and make sure it is handed in properly. Not all homework assignments will be collected. If a student is struggling with homework completion, especially important assignments like labs/investigations and projects, they will be assigned a teacher detention to complete them. Assignments that are late because a student is absent will not be penalized as long as they are handed in within the time period specified within the *Quaboag Regional Student/Parent Handbook*.
	+ **Late homework assignments: Most assignments are not accepted late** unless a student is absent (I go over worksheets in class so they have the answers!) **If an assignment is accepted late, students will be given ½ credit.**

**Late Work (Labs/Investigations and Projects)**

* + Students are given plenty of time and notice to complete labs/investigations and project assignments. If an assignment is handed in late, the grade will be lowered by as much as 20 percent. After 3 school days late, the work will no longer be accepted, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

**Learning Expectations**

The science department is responsible for reporting student’s performance on two of the Learning Expectations (LEs). Specifically, students will be assessed on LE#3 The QRMHS student listens actively and LE #9 The QRMHS student collaborates effectively to achieve a common goal. Their grade will be reported for these Learning Expectations on the report card for terms 2 and 4. Copies of the school wide rubrics used for the assessments can be found on the school’s website.

**Extra Help/After School**

Students are encouraged to come for extra help if needed or to work on labs/projects or homework. **I am available most Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school until 3:30 pm** and can be available any other day by appointment.

**Contact Information**

If you have any questions, please contact me at **kspock****@quaboagrsd.org** at any time. **Email is the best way to contact me**.

**Personal Detentions**

***As per the Quaboag Regional Student/Parent handbook***, the classroom teacher may at any time assign a personal detention and the student is bound to honor it. Common reasons for personal detentions include tardiness, lack of preparation, inappropriate behavior and failure to complete work (homework included).

**What are the most important things to remember?**

* Obey classroom and Lab safety rules
* Give your best effort
* Be responsible/respectful
* Think” like a ***“proton”*** --- have a positive attitude and
* most importantly … become engaged in classroom/lab activities/investigations and discussions ----

Science is **AWESOME!**

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| atom | ***Student/Parent Acknowledgment of******Course Objectives & Expectations******8th grade Science, 2019-2020******Course website: mrsspockscience.weebly.com*** |

 **Syllabus Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the course requirements and expectations for 8th grade Science as stated in the syllabus. I also agree to follow all safety rules and I realize the importance of obeying these rules to ensure my safety as well as my classmates. I understand that I am ultimately responsible for my grade and if I am absent, it is my responsibility to find out what I missed and make it up. I am also aware that I can check my grade throughout the year using PowerSchool. If I have any questions or concerns regarding my grade, content or policies I will contact Ms. Spock immediately.

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Student Printed Name Student Signed Name Period

By signing this acknowledgement you have read and understood the syllabus for your child’s class and how to contact me. You are also aware that grades are posted throughout the year on *PowerSchool*. Email is the best way to contact the teacher.

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Parent Printed Name Parent Signed Name Date

**Parent/Guardian Contact Information:**

**\* Email is the preferred way to communicate**

**First Contact:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Day Time Phone # (\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cellular Phone # (\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best time to get a hold of you during school day: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\*E-Mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Second Contact:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Day Time Phone # (\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cellular Phone # (\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best time to get a hold of you during school day: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\*E-Mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PowerSchool:** If you are having difficulty accessing grades through PowerSchool, please contact Lorna Fairbrother in at 413-436-5508.