Welcome to 8th Grade Science! This year will be one of both learning and fun, as we explore several topics involving Energy, Chemistry, Cell Theory, Microbiology, Earth History, Evolution, Ecology and the Hydrosphere. Throughout the year, I hope to provide both a positive and safe learning environment. This can only be accomplished with your help. Our ultimate goal is to have both personal and academic growth.

**Grading**During the course of each marking period, you will be expected to complete a variety of assignments: at-home and in-class projects, quizzes, tests and laboratory activities. Your marking period grade will be a reflection of how well you accomplish these tasks, and the effort that you apply to complete them.

Your grade will be based on the following criteria:

**Tests: 30%  
Quizzes: 20%  
Special Projects and Labs: 20%  
Homework and Daily Work: 15%  
Notebook Check: 15%**

**Responsibilities**If you are absent from class, regardless of the reason….

* it is your responsibility to check the Calendar/Notebook Board/Class Website to see what assignments you missed and what is due
* it is your responsibility to make up missed work and hand in what you owe in a timely fashion (see me regarding due dates)
* it is your responsibility to collect any missed handouts that were placed on the Notebook Board

**Science Work**

*Please visit gmsteamtorch.weebly.com for a listing of all homework/assignments (for ALL classes)* **Notebook**: Students should bring all current science work to class in a 3-ring binder (shared with Math). A table of contents at the beginning of the binder will log all unit work that is assigned. Notebooks will be checked once a week or on quiz/test days and will receive a grade based on completion and correct organization.

**Assignments**: All assignments will be submitted on loose-leaf paper. I will not accept any assignment submitted on notebook paper that has been torn out of a notebook and has messy edges. All assignments will be headed IN THE UPPER RIGHT CORNER OF THE PAGE in the following manner:

**Student Name  
Core  
Date  
Assignment Title**

*\*\*Any work turned in late must be labeled “LATE” below the assignment title.  
\*\*Any work turned in late due to absence must be labeled “ABSENT” below the assignment title.  
\*\*Any handouts or worksheets turned in late or due to absence must be labeled appropriately as well.*

**Tests/Quizzes**: Quizzes and written assignments will be given to gauge knowledge of a concept, lesson, or unit. Quizzes may be given as frequently as once a week, and may or may not be announced (unannounced quiz = “pop quiz”). *All tests will be announced ahead of time so each student may prepare adequately.*

**Laboratory/Group Activity work**: All students will be required to participate in and complete all labs and activities; if special lab activity instructions are not followed, students will be sent out of the room or to Choices and will receive a ZERO as their lab grade.

**Projects**: Some units will incorporate a project that should be completed with maximum effort. Unit projects will be introduced at the beginning of the unit, will include a grading rubric, and are to be submitted by the given deadline.

**Articles**: Twice a week students will complete an article review on a science article of their choice. Grading will follow the rubric provided. Students can present their article review to the class for extra credit.

**Extra credit**: I try to offer at least one extra credit worksheet per week (counts as a homework grade). Other extra credit opportunities may be offered throughout the year, and students can come to me for extra credit opportunities.

**General Class Rules  
Be courteous and respectful to others** – in other words, treat others as you would like to be treated. The common rules of courtesy apply everywhere that we are, and the classroom is no different. I appreciate a joke as much as the next person, but not at the expense of another individual. Please respect the feelings of everyone around you.

**Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak** – when possible, everyone will receive their turn to contribute to the class. However, we must first respect those who are speaking, whether it is the teacher, an administrator or a classmate.

**Be prepared for class** – being prepared means having your completed homework, Science Binder, writing implement and any other required materials on your desk when the bell rings.

**Listen and Follow Directions the First Time They Are Given** – no one likes to sound like a broken record, so please pay attention to all directions when they are first given.

**Lateness** – Any student late to class must have a note excusing their lateness. Any unexcused lateness will result in silent lunch.

**School rules** – All school policies will be enforced in the classroom. This includes, but is not limited to, the policies regarding hats, dress code, cell phones, mp3 players, gaming devices, gum, etc. **CELL PHONES: First infraction—I hold your phone until the end of the day: Second infraction- the phone will be held in the front office for a parent to pick up and a detention will be issued; Third infraction- the phone will be held in front office, a detention will be issues and a discipline referral will be written.** Please review the school policies outlined in the Falcon 45 and your Code of Conduct Booklets.

**Gum/Candy/Food**- unless given permission, no food or gum is allowed in class. First infraction- silent lunch; Second infraction- detention and phone call to parent; Third infraction- sent to Choices and Discipline Referral written.

I have read and agree to follow the above expectations and rules

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Student Name Date