

Mrs. Clark
 7th Grade Science
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Classroom Syllabus

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Bogle Junior High School and 7th Grade Science. This syllabus is intended to give you general information about classroom procedures and expectations and contains the answers to the most frequently asked questions. **Please read through this information thoroughly.**

It is important for your middle school student to learn to advocate for themselves. If there are any questions or concerns, the student should talk directly to Mrs. Clark before, during, or after class, or send an email. Please note that Mrs. Clark does not receive or answer emails outside of school hours.

What supplies do I need?

Students should have the following supplies for class no later than **Monday, July 26th**:

- 1 one-inch standard view window 3-ring binder
 *No trapper keepers, accordion folders, etc. The binder is used as an organizational tool for the student's work.
- 1 set of five- tab dividers
- 1 packs 3x5 Index cards

Things you will use in science, but you might be sharing with your other classes:

- Pencils & Erasers
- Lined paper (loose-leaf, three-hole, college-ruled)
- Pens (anything BUT black)
- Pencil Pouch
- Scientific Calculator (not a cell phone)
- Highlighters (4 colors)
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Glue sticks

Parents: Please let Mrs. Clark know if purchasing these supplies causes an excessive financial burden. Donations of Kleenex are always welcome! Thank you, in advance, for your contributions.

Why do I need a Science Binder?

Organization is one of the most important skills that a student can have. It helps students to be successful in their school career, as well as any future career that they will have as adults. Students who do not have their work organized, frequently receive lower marks because they cannot locate pertinent information or completed work. Students will be expected to keep science warm-ups, notes, labs, and handouts organized in a binder. ***Science binders will be graded.***

Parents: Staying organized for six different subjects is frequently a challenge for students new to middle school. Please check your child's binder for organization until they can confidently do this important executive function skill on their own. There is an example binder in the science classroom that they can use to check their binder.

How should I organize my Science Binder?

Organization is a very important skill to learn in middle school. It can make the difference between success and failure. Items kept in the science binder will be referred back to for activities and assessments. To stay organized, students will label the dividers in their science binder as follows:

- **Tab 1:** Engage
- **Tab 2:** Explain / Explore
- **Tab 3:** Elaborate
- **Tab 4:** Inquiry
- **Tab 5:** Helpful Hints

Parents: At the end of each quarter, some of the papers will be removed from the science binder to make room for papers for the upcoming quarter. Your student will be expected to keep these pages that have been removed in a safe place at home. They will need ALL work for the semester finals.

What is science?

“Science is **curiosity in thoughtful action** about the world and how it behaves.” (nasa.gov)

It begins with *observing* something and wondering what is happening or how it happens and then *asking a question* or making a statement. It usually involves *doing research*. Then a possible answer or solution can be tested by an *experiment*, examined using a *model* or *simulation*, *using technology*, or using some type of *engineering*. After *collecting data and analyzing* it, the *results are communicated*.

“The crosscutting concepts along with the science and engineering practices provide opportunities for developing strong interdisciplinary connections across all content areas (AZ Sci Standards: Appendix 5, p.39).” Students will be expected to work on their reading, writing, and mathematical skills while working on science skills.

Parents: Your child will be taught a variety of skills in science class. Please encourage them to learn and master these skills, even if they may not be as fun as the “experimentation” part.

What will I be learning in science this year?

The content of this course will include concepts from physical science (forces and motion), earth and space science (energy flow and matter cycling) and life science (structure and function of cells). Lessons will include as many laboratories and cooperative learning activities as possible, as this format has been shown to be the best way for students to learn important themes in science, develop critical thinking skills, and develop the ability to work with others.

How do I get a good grade in science?

Three things will determine a student’s academic success in this class:

- Number and quality of daily assignments turned in for grades
- Assignments being turned in on time
- Scores on assessments and projects

Parents: Requirements and activities are designed to help each student be successful. If you notice that your child is struggling, please contact me immediately.

How can a student’s parents keep tabs on how they are doing?

Each student will be provided with an agenda by the school. Students are required to have this agenda at all times. The first one is provided free of charge; replacements can be purchased in the front office for \$5. During each class, the student is given time to write what is being done in that class that day (i.e. CW), and what the homework assignment is (i.e. HW). The homework assignment will be highlighted as an extra reminder. If the student has not completed a homework assignment, the teacher will write an “H” in the box of the incomplete assignment.

If an assignment needs to be fixed to get credit, the teacher will highlight the word “Fix.” **An assignment will have a “FIX” date in the upper right-hand corner, if it qualifies for a “FIX.”** “Fixes” are due on the Monday after the week the classwork was assigned.

In Mrs. Clark’s class, a ladybug stamp means that the work has been completed.

Please keep in mind that students **MUST** keep all graded work in the appropriate sections of their science binder. Using the science binder in conjunction with the agenda can give you important information on how a student is doing.

Parents: Please check your child’s agenda and binder at least once a week, if not daily! You will be asked to check your child’s grades in Infinite Campus and sign your child’s agenda every Thursday evening.

Can I get extra credit?

There are **NO** extra credit assignments. Students should spend time completing regular assignments. They should retake vocabulary quizzes when they have received a failing grade or fix assignments *when the assignment is designated as an assignment that can be fixed*. **An assignment will have a “FIX” date in the upper right-hand corner, if it qualifies for a “FIX.”** “Fixes” are due by the following Monday after the week the assignment was originally due.

Parents: Please make sure that your student completes all of their regular assignments completely and on time.

What is the “Teach to Learn” page in the science binder?

This page is a student assignment that requires the student to TEACH someone about something that was learned - not just what is taking place - in class during the assigned week. When a person teaches another, both learn, but the “teacher” often learns much more than the “student.” The student will write down one or two sentences explaining what was LEARNED and then the adult will add their signature. This must be completed by the FRIDAY of the assigned week; **late work is NOT accepted**. If a student is ill on Friday, they must remember to get the assignment stamped on Monday.

Parents: Students may teach anyone, and the page can be signed by anyone 18 years of age or older.

What are the disciplinary procedures?

If a student is not following the expected class guidelines, they will receive a “Conduct Reflection” form. They may also be asked to relocate within the classroom or to another classroom. The form must be filled out appropriately, signed by the student and adult, and returned the following day. Failure to do so will result in lunch detention. Three conduct forms may result in a written office referral and a meeting with the 7th Grade Vice Principal.

Parents: The classroom should be a safe learning environment for all individuals involved. Students will be expected to use behavior that is respectful and cooperative.

What’s my grade?

Mrs. Clark will **NOT** tell you your grade during class! This is to protect confidentiality. Parents and students can monitor grades online by checking Infinite Campus on a weekly basis.

Parents: If you do not have a computer and/or the internet, please have your child inform their teachers. If necessary, computers in the media center can be used before or after school.

How much is each grade worth?

Assignments fall into four categories: binder check, assessments, projects, and class work/homework. Each category is weighted equally.

How do I get the work that I missed when I am absent?

Daily work will be posted in Google Classroom. **THESE PAGES MUST BE PRINTED AND PLACED IN THE SCIENCE BINDER. THE TEACHER WILL NOT BE GRADING ONLINE.**

Students may pick up paper copies of the work from me on the day that they return to class if they are unable to print it out at home. It is the **student’s** responsibility to approach the teacher for missing work!

Absent work (binder assignments) must be shown to the teacher within one week of the student’s absence on “**Fix-it Mondays**.” Absent work receives full credit if the absence is excused.

Parents: Work not turned in for an absence is a “0” until it is turned in. If it is not turned within one week of the student’s absence, it is treated as late work. Students must attend Mrs. Clark during tutoring if they do not understand how to do the missed assignments. (Participating in sports activities or other extracurricular activities is NOT an excuse to miss assignments). If you want to request homework for your child while they are sick or away, you must give the teachers a 24-hour notice. If work has been requested before or during an absence, it must be turned in on the day your student returns to school per district policy, not a week later.

Can I turn work in late and still get credit?

Late projects for unexcused reasons, should be turned in the following day. It will receive a reduced number of points. Late projects due to an excused absence, should be turned in the day the student returns to school. After that, it will be considered late.

All other work needs to be turned in by the “Fix” date.

Parents: When students are asked to “FIX” assignments, they can be redone up until the following Monday of the week after they were due. The teacher checks redone work on Mondays during class.

Please note that Mrs. Clark does NOT take “I didn’t understand it” as an excuse for not turning work in on time. ALL homework assignments have been explained and started in class. If a student is still struggling with an assignment, they will be expected to see Mrs. Clark during class, after school that same day, or before school starts the following day to receive assistance. Telling me in class the day the work is due is too late!

Parents: If your student has a legitimate reason for not being able to turn work in on time, please contact me. Sports activities are NOT a legitimate reason for missing work.

CAUTION: A student is expected to make up ALL missing assignments for absences, no matter what the reason; (extended illness will be handled on a case-by-case basis). Please note that teachers have a “Grades Due” deadline before the end of each quarter, so absent/late work must be turned in by the date that the teacher has set as the “Last Date.”

What can I expect from science assessment (quiz, test)?

Quizzes on vocabulary will be given every week.

Unit Tests are given every three to four weeks. A test review will be given at the beginning of a test week; however, students may begin studying for the test at any time. Students are expected to finish the test review by Wednesday and questions about the review will be reviewed in class. Parents will be asked to sign the test review the Wednesday night before the test. Tests may include multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions.

Parents: Students will be instructed at the beginning of the year, and then reminded at the beginning of each test, that no communication of any kind including talking, whispering, or exchanging facial expressions will be tolerated during the testing period. The consequence of such behavior will be a failing grade on the test.

Parents: Only quizzes, NOT TESTS, can be retaken once if a student receives a FAILING grade (less than 60%). The new quiz grade will be the AVERAGE of the old quiz and the new quiz. When Mrs. Clark posts the grades for a quiz, she will also note the date and time that a student must retake a quiz or make-up a quiz or test.

What do I do if I need extra help on assignments or need to make up an assessment (quiz, test)?

Time is available for students who need help after an absence, need extra assistance to understand a concept, or need to make up a quiz or test. Students should attend the teacher’s tutoring, or speak to her as soon as possible to make an alternative appointment.

What can I expect to happen each day in science class?

Immediately upon entering the classroom, the student should take his/her assigned seat and be prepared to write in their agenda. Students not in their seats when the tardy bell rings will be marked “Tardy.”

The Engage (warm-up) activity immediately follows the agenda time. Engage exercises usually involve taking a pre-test, so students will be asked not to talk to their neighbor at this time!

After the engage (warm-up), the topic for the day will be introduced. Students will be expected to respect whoever is speaking by paying attention and raising their hand when they wish to speak. This is usually the time when students pose and discuss questions of their own making, and lively scientific discussions take place.

Finally, students will watch a demonstration or participate in a lab or activity that reinforces the topic that they are learning about.

Every class will have time for students to interact with their peers.

Students have time to start and/or complete their homework in class.

Parents: Please do not hesitate to e-mail me with any questions or concerns if the answer is not already contained within this document. However, please remember that your student should talk to me first, before you reach out. Very often, the question is answered or resolved more quickly that way.

Sincerely,

Julie L. Clark, M.Ed.

7th Grade Science Dept. Chair

Bogle Junior High School

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Web page: <https://www.cusd80.com/Domain/726>