LEARNING GOALS – Begin with the End in Mind
1. To use the scientific method
2. To develop your understanding of life, earth, and physical science
3. To reason and communicate about scientific ideas

MATERIALS & ORGANIZATION – Be Proactive
Every day in class you need the following materials:
- Journals
- Science binder
- Pencil, Grading pen, Notebook paper
- Colored pencils, glue sticks, and scissors
- Middle School Planner

If you run out of these materials during the school year, it is your responsibility to replace them.

Textbooks – We have classroom copies of our textbooks that will always be available at school. I recommend that you keep your textbook at home for convenience. To use the online textbook and workbook go to the website listed on the first page in your textbook. There are also CD-ROM versions of the textbook and workbook available for check out.

Organization – It will be very important for you to stay organized. Your class notes and assignments will be helpful when you study for quizzes and tests. You can also use the materials when studying for TCAP tests at the end of the year.

Notebook Tabs –
- Syllabus
- Data, Quizzes & Tests
- Chapter Reinforcements
- Vocabulary
- Labs

GRADING, LATE WORK & ABSENCE POLICIES - Put First Things First
Grades will be weighted according to the following percentages:
- Tests and Major Projects 50%
- Labs and Minor Projects 25%
- Classwork, Quizzes 15%
- Homework, Warm-up (DN) 10%
TCAPS will be weighted according to state and county guidelines. Last year, TCAPs were 25% of the second semester grade.

Did You Know?
Multitasking (such as talking or texting on your phone) while doing homework is actually hurting your brain? Studies are now showing that multitasking predisposes a brain to shorter attention spans. Multitasking is a myth! (Sprenger, M., 2010)
So, turn off your phones and television while studying!
**Late Work** – Assignments are very important and are due at the beginning of class. Assignments turned in one day late will earn a maximum of 70% credit. Assignments turned in two days late will earn a maximum of 50% credit. After two days 0% credit will be given.

**Extra Credit** – There may be one extra credit opportunity per 9-weeks. If available, the topic and due date will be announced at the beginning of each term.

**Absences** – When you miss class, you are responsible for finding out what needs to be made up on the day you return. I will provide you with copies of any worksheets or activities that you missed. Copy notes that you missed from a friend. You will be given the same number of days to make up as you had excused absences. Remember to turn in assignments that were due the first day your were absent, or they will be considered late.

**CONTACT INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION - Synergize**

Email: cromie@etsu.edu

Parents, please check your child’s progress using ParentCONNECT two or more times each 9-weeks. I will contact you mid-way through the 9-week term if your child is failing a course. Email is the easiest and quickest way to reach me to discuss your child’s progress. We can also have a conference anytime during the year to address specific concerns.

**SCIENCE HELP – Be Proactive**

Students can get extra help during study hall. I can also meet with students before or after school as needed. Please contact me to schedule a help session.

**DISCIPLINE PLAN – Think Win-Win**

In order to create a positive learning environment and to help each student meet his/her learning goals, the following rules outline my expectations for student behavior.

Classroom Rules:

1. **Follow directions** the first time they were given.
2. **Pay attention** in class and participate.
3. **Be prepared** with all materials.
4. **Paper Heading**, as posted in your middle school planners, must be included on all papers. Any work submitted without a name or proper heading may receive a deduction of 10 points from final grade. A proper heading includes your name, date, and page number (or assignment title).
5. **Respect** the people, equipment, and furnishings in the classroom
6. **Observe all rules in the University School Handbook, Middle School Planner, and Science Lab Safety Safety Agreement.**

Consequences for Breaking Rules:

Students that do not follow classroom rules will receive a conduct slip that needs to be signed by a parent and returned the next day. A two day return will be accepted under special circumstances. If there is a severe disruption, students will receive an immediate discipline referral to the office.

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**Did You Know?**

Learning while multitasking resulted in procedural memory, a form of memory associated with activation of the striatum and used to support habitual task performance, which tends to generalize poorly to new situations (Foerde, Knowlton, & Poldrack, 2006). Thus, if information is learned under multitasking conditions, the flexible application of knowledge associated with creativity and adaptive problem solving may be less likely to occur (Veeva. M., 2009).

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Important – Keep this packet in your Science Notebook at all times. It is worth 10 extra credit points on your last vocabulary test!
SCIENCE LAB SAFETY AGREEMENT

Think Win-Win; Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood; Synergize

1. Read all directions for an experiment carefully before beginning. Follow all directions exactly as written or explained by the teacher.
2. Never perform unauthorized activities.
3. No eating, drinking, or chewing gum during lab.
4. Clear tables of all materials except for those needed for lab.
5. After an experiment, always clean up the work area and return clean equipment to its proper place.
6. Always wear safety goggles when working with chemicals or objects that might injure eyes.
7. Many chemicals are poisonous. Never touch, taste, or smell any chemical.
8. Dispose of all chemicals and materials as instructed by the teacher.
9. Take care not to spill any materials in lab. If a spill does occur, notify the teacher for clean-up directions.
10. Stay at your table at all times. Only the materials person should leave the table.
11. Be responsible for yourself and your work.
12. Talk in a quiet voice.
13. Respect all materials, equipment, and persons as you work.

LAB REPORT RUBRIC (15-30 points)

A. Question (10%)
B. Hypothesis (10%)
   What do you think will be the results? Include IV and DV.
C. Materials and Design (10%)
   List of materials; numbered, detailed steps for procedure
D. Data Tables (10%)
   Chart form with raw data and observations; include units
E. Graphs & Analysis of Data (10%)
   Graph of calculations; labeled axes; use graph paper and a straight edge
F. Conclusion (50%)
   1. Restate hypothesis
   2. Support or reject hypothesis by discussing data (Talk about the numbers).
   3. Discuss problems controlling variables.
   4. Apply findings (What do findings mean for real world situations?)
   5. Propose a new question and hypothesis based on findings.

Graphing Checklist
- Graph paper
- In pencil and colored pencils, if needed
- Title (with units)
- Axis labels (with units)
- Straight edge used for ALL lines & bars
- Constant scale
- Bars are evenly spaced
- Half to whole page in size

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TEST CORRECTIONS

Required for 84% or lower (C, D, & F), optional for 85% and above (A & B). The new grade will be considered a homework grade.

Instructions:

1. Write the missed questions and the corrected answers. For short answer questions, rewrite your answer making needed changes. You do not have to write the short answer questions.
2. For each question, reflect on the reason(s) you missed the question from the list below.
   A. I did not study this topic enough.
   B. I did not read the directions or made a careless mistake
   C. I did not understand the question.
   D. I was absent when the material was covered in class.
3. Using your corrections and reflections make a detailed list of topics to review before the next test.
4. Staple the corrections and reflections to the back of the quiz or test. Use additional paper as needed.
5. Turn in to the teacher the next day.

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STUDENT AND PARENT AGREEMENT
Directions: Read the syllabus, sign and return this page the following day.

I understand the learning expectations, classroom rules, and lab safety agreement for Science. I will do all that I can to meet the learning expectations and follow the classroom rules. I understand that failure to follow the Science Lab Safety Agreement rules will result in not being allowed to participate in lab activities and will affect by grade.

Student Signature ___________________________________________  Date______________________

I understand the learning expectations and classroom rules, and lab safety agreement for Science.

Parent Signature ___________________________________________  Date______________________

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