**Welcome to Math 8 + Science 8 (MaSc 8) with Ms. Miller!**

**Classroom Expectations and Information**

Welcome to MASC 8! I know for some of you math and science may seem like scary subjects. Honestly, I was never a strong math student myself, and it took me awhile to like science.
BUT…over time, I have come to like math and it is SO satisfying when you finally solve that tough math problem on your own! And science is just plain AWESOME – dissections, explosions, color changes…what’s not to like?

During our time together this year there are a few expectations I have for you:

**Supplies**

Please come to class **everyday** with the following supplies:

* A **separate** folder/journal with lined paper for “bellwork”
* A small folder or pouch in your binder to store your learning checks (one for math + one for science = 2!)
* Loose lined paper
* Pencils, pens, eraser, and ruler
* A binder with separate sections for math and science
* A calculator – I do not lend out calculators so if you forget one you’ll be doing a LOT of math in your head!
* Your agenda/planner/phone or other place for recording assignments and due dates
* Your textbook

If you forget to bring any of these items, you may borrow one from the “Extra Supplies” box if it’s available. You may also be asked to write lines after school if you forget your supplies on a regular basis.

**Bellwork**

Every day there will be a question posted on the overhead for you to complete when you walk in. This is called “bellwork”. Please keep your bellwork separate from other work (e.g. notes) so that it is easy to find. The purpose of bellwork is to review important concepts or to warm your brain up to a new topic.

**Attendance**

**If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make up missed work, whether your absence is excused or not. Do NOT wait for me to chase after you!** Extra handouts for each day of the week are in the “What Did I Miss?” bins at the back of the room.
**Expect to make up missed learning checks, unit tests, or other work the day you return.**  If your absence is unexcused, you may be asked to stay in after school to make up missed work and your parents will be contacted.

**Lates**

Sometimes it happens, but if you are late on a regular basis you will be expected to make up the time after school. **Please knock on the door and wait until I can let you in during an appropriate break in the class.**

**Homework and Late Assignments**

**To avoid homework, get your work done during class.** You will usually have enough time to finish everything in class. Assignments and reminders will be posted in class on the whiteboard and bulletin board at the front of the room.

**Talk to me first if you need to hand something in late.** Sometimes you will have to finish the assignment after school, depending on the circumstances. This prevents students from copying already completed assignments and allows students to get help if they need it, which is often the reason why work is handed in late in the first place. Please respect my deadlines by handing things in on time.

**Cheating, Copying, and Plagiarism (aka “Academic Dishonesty”)**

**Cheating, copying, or plagiarism is like stealing. Don’t do it!** If you do, you will receive no credit, your parents will be contacted, and it will end up on your academic record.Remember, you are responsible for protecting your own work. If you allow someone to cheat, copy, or plagiarize using your work, you are both equally at fault and you will receive the same consequences as the other student involved.

**Bathroom Breaks**

**Please use the bathroom in between classes or at lunch.** If you really have to go, ask permission first before leaving the classroom and write your name on the board. Please do not ask to leave during instructional time (i.e. during notes or a class discussion), and don’t bring your cellphone to the bathroom (that’s gross!). **If you are off-task and have not finished your work, or take advantage of bathroom breaks, you will not be allowed to leave.**

**Personal Electronics (i.e. cell phones, music players, etc)**

 **You are not allowed to use cell phones or other devices during class** unless you have asked me permission first. **If I see it or hear it, it will be taken away and you will have to pick it up after school (at 2:55pm).** Please don’t make excuses like, “But my mom is messaging me!” Whether it’s your mom, dad, cat, dog, or Donald Trump himself, there’s no good reason why you can’t leave your phone alone for an hour (plus, if it is a real emergency, your parents would call the office or my room directly).
We only have an hour together on most days so I want your focus during that time to be on learning. I know it’s tough, but you can do it!

**Food and Drink**

You may bring food and drink to class as long as you clean up after yourself and as long as it’s not bugging anyone else. **Please don’t eat or place food on the lab benches.** On lab days no food or drink is allowed (for safety).

**General Behaviour**

Please **raise your hand** if you have a comment or question in class. This way everyone can hear the question and prevents people from talking over each other.

Please **do not pack up your things before the bell**. I always try to give you a few minutes to gather your things so that you have time to make it to your next class. If you pack up early, I may ask you to stay behind.

Please use **appropriate language** and show **respect** for others, yourself, and the classroom environment.

Please use the **recycling** and **compost bins** if possible. If you throw something into the garbage that you know is compostable or recyclable, I may ask you to retrieve it (ewwwwwww!) and put it in the correct spot. If you’re not sure, ask me to avoid this gross situation ☺

**Grades**.

What you learn this year will be made up of *content* (what you **KNOW**), *skills* (what you are able to **DO**), and *big ideas* (how well you **UNDERSTAND**).

*Examples:*

**Content (KNOW)** – “I can describe the jobs of major organelles in a cell”

**Skill (DO)** – “I can make informed predictions about what might happen during a scientific experiment”

**Big Idea (UNDERSTAND)** – “A cell is the basic unit of life”

Your final grade will be based on all of these, but remember, our main focus is on your learning and growth rather than your final letter grade.

You will NOT receive marks for homework checks, learning checks, participation, or attendance (although there are other benefits related to these things). However, you are expected to complete all assignments and learning checks to the best of your ability. And…there is no final exam. HOORAY!!

You will also be developing good work habits throughout the year and you will receive a separate work habit score on your report card along with your letter grade. Work habits are things like attendance, organization, work ethic, etc.

The unit topics we will be learning about and their big ideas are shown below. The actual content and skills are not shown here; we will talk about those later as we get to them. **Parents**: please visit https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/ for more information.

**Science**

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| --- | --- |
| **Unit** | **Big Idea** |
| Cells | *Cells are the basic unit of life* |
| Atoms | *Matter is made up of atoms and behaves in predictable ways* |
| Optics | *Light is a type of electromagnetic radiation that allows us to see objects* |
| Plate Tectonics | *The movement of Earth’s crust determines its physical features* |

**Math**

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| --- | --- |
| **Unit** | **Big Idea** |
| Integers | *Integers are positive or negative whole numbers which represent things that can be counted* |
| Parts of a Whole | *Ratios, decimals, percents, and fractions represent parts of a whole and are useful for making comparisons* |
| Linear Relationships and Equations | *Understanding linear relationships allows us to predict and solve for unknown numbers in linear equations using algebra* |
| Shapes and Space | *We can use our understanding of surface area and volume to navigate and manipulate 3D environments* |
| Statistics | *Organizing and analyzing data helps us identify patterns and make predictions* |

**After-School Help**

I am available regularly after school for help. Check the whiteboard for my after school schedule. If you are unable to see me after school, talk to me during class and we can arrange a different time that works for both of us.

**Consequences For Not Following Expectations:**

* Warning/reminder
* Leave the room until the problem can be resolved
* Discuss behaviour with the teacher
* Correct the behaviour
* Behaviour contract
* Write lines/apology
* Change seat for the day
* Work in another classroom for the day
* Detention
* Phone call home
* Office referral

***The bottom line:***

* Show up to class
* Work hard
* Ask for help when needed

*I look forward to being your teacher this year and will do my best to help you succeed!*

***Parents:* Please fill out and sign the consent form on the following page, and have your child return the form to school as soon as possible.**

This form will allow your child to access feedback and grades online.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me:

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**Room C235**

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