

7th Grade STEM 2023-2024

Welcome to Ms. Loftus' Class! We are going to explore phenomena of this amazing world we live in through scientific investigations and discussions.

Expectations: Think critically, stay curious, respect yourself and others, give your best effort in everything we do and have fun!

Class Rules:

- 1) Respect - each other, the materials you use, your environment and personal space
- 2) Use positive language
- 3) Be respectful and patient if you need my help
- 4) Follow the rules the first time they are given, no hats or hoods
- 5) Do not eat in labs and wear safety equipment when necessary

Class Routine: Routines help us know what will happen. This is the routine I am proposing for our class, your input will help create better routines that make learning fun and challenging.

- 1) Entry Task:** From when you enter the room until the end of the first 10 mins of class, everyone will respond to the warm up question and discuss that question with your entry partner. After you have this entry task completed, a few of you will share your thoughts about the question for the class.
- 2) Our Learning Goals:** these are posted each day, usually as questions we will answer. Included in the learning goal will be the type of cognitive task for the day, i.e. reading, writing, speaking, listening.
- 3) Lab Day:** We will spend time preparing for investigative labs so that we are all ready for success the next day.
- 4) Summary Table:** After we have worked with an evidence gathering moment, we will enter what we did, learned and its connection to our phenomenon into our summary table for the day.
- 5) Exit Task:** This quick check-in helps me to plan our next steps, you will complete before leaving class.

Materials Needed: Chromebook, whiteboard pens, spiral notebook section, pen, pencil, colored pencils or markers, and a highlighter.

STEM Grading:

Student learning will be reported using the guide below, based on performances on state standard assessments and daily work and practice. Behavior will be reported separately as E, S, or U, and will not be factored into the final class grade.

- 85% of the student grade will be based on state standard assessments.
- 15% of the student grade will be based on daily work and practice (the student-created science notebook, some completed through Google Classroom and some on paper).

Behavior will be graded as E-exceptional, S-satisfactory, or U-unsatisfactory.

Standard Reporting Guide

A/4- DIS Distinguished
-exceeds grade level standard
B/3-PRO Proficient
-meets grade level standard

qC/2-APP Approaching
-needs assistance to meet grade level standard
D/1-BEG Beginning
-work is below grade level standard
NE- No evidence

Keys to the class:

- 🔗 Be an active learner! Don't sit back and watch, be part of the process!
- 🔗 Complete all of the practice required in the science notebook and in Google

Classroom... it will prepare you for the assessments!

- 🔗 Ask questions! Be **curious**!
- 🔗 Be safe and have fun!
- 🔗 Give more, get more!

Late Work Policy: Students are responsible for turning work in on time. If the student is absent for an assignment, they will be given time to make up the work.

Academic Integrity/Cheating: Unless stated, all work produced in this class must be your own. If you violate this policy, you will receive an unsatisfactory (U) on the assignment in question. Allowing anyone else to copy your work will also result in an unsatisfactory (U).

Please don't hesitate to email or call with any questions or concerns at aloftus@cashmere.wednet.edu or call (509) 782-2001

I am looking forward to our year of STEM here at CMS! Please review this syllabus with your parent/child and sign. Thank you!

Year Long Plan:

Unit 1: TSA Flight Challenge August Lessons: Engineering	Unit 4: How can we make meals for disasters? November Lessons: Chemical Energy
Unit 2: Why does Halloween candy hurt Orangutans? September Lessons: Ecology	Unit 5: Chemistree and Gingerbread Challenge December Lessons: Atoms and Engineering
Unit 3: How does a Bath Bomb Work? October Lessons: Chemistry Reactions	
Unit 6: Why did this teenager get sick? January Lessons: Body Systems and Cellular Respiration	Unit 9: How do plants make our food? April Lessons: Carbon Cycle and Photosynthesis
Unit 7: Why are floods happening in new places? February Lessons: Climate Change	Unit 10: Salmon Unit May Lessons: Ecology
Unit 8: STEM Expo Project March Lessons: Engineering and Sustainability	

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____