**Welcome Ms. Taulbee’s Class!**

 **Destination: Science!**

 Greetings! I am Mrs. Rachel Taulbee and I will be your child’s science teacher for the upcoming school year. A very exciting year has been planned for the class and I look forward to working closely with you and your child as we take the journey of science discovery together!

First, I’d like to share a bit about myself. I currently hold a B.S. Ed in Middle Grades Education from Armstrong State University, am a member of Kappa Delta Pi the International Honor Society in Education, and am certified to teach using the Project W.E.T., Project Wild, and Project Learning Tree curriculum extensions sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources. Aside from my love of science, I am an avid reader and enjoy, camping, road trips, and going to the beach with my husband, our six children and three dogs. Our family recently moved to the area from Georgia and we are loving it!

Your child is in a time of life when he or she is experiencing budding independence, adventure and uncertainty. I respect this and seek to promote self-confidence, support independence and provide guidance for your child where possible. You will be hearing from me throughout the year with updates on your child’s progress and other classroom events. I welcome your letters, phone calls, and emails as we are a team dedicated to your child’s success!

 Thank you for allowing me the privilege of teaching your child and for taking the time to read the information I have provided. If you have further questions or concerns feel free to contact me at the school at 919-554-4848 ext. 309 or email me at racheltaulbee@fcschools.net. It’s going to be a fantastic year!

Kind regards,

Rachel Taulbee

**Mrs. Rachel Taulbee – 7th Grade Science**

**Room 309, Cedar Creek Middle School**

**Email:** **racheltaulbee@fcschools.net** **Phone Number: 919-554-4848 ext. 309**

**Curriculum**

 Instruction is aligned with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for 7th Grade Science, which is published online at <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/curriculum/science/scos/>. The following is a sample of content addressed in this class:

Layers of the Atmosphere Weather Cell Structure

Energy Plant Anatomy Human Anatomy

Force and Motion Simple Machines Human Heredity

**Grading Policy**

 Grade categories and weights are determined by the school administration and are as follows:

Formative Labs/Assessments 40%

Summative Labs/Assessments 60%

\*Anyone who is found cheating or copying on any assignment will not receive credit for that assignment.

\* 2 points per day are deducted for late work, up to five days. Late work is not accepted after 5 days.

**Make-up Policy**

 I hope that no one misses class, but I realize that sometimes it is unavoidable. Missed assignments are available on Google Classroom. It is the *student’s responsibility* to check Google Classroom, complete the work, and submit it. We are fostering a sense of accountability and therefore, cannot continuously remind students that they have make-up work to complete. Students have one day for each missed day to return the work, i.e. Jonny missed 3 days so his completed absentee folder is due back in 3 days. After the due date, the late work policy above is in effect.

 If a test is missed, arrangements will be made to allow the student to take the test upon returning to school.

**Classroom Rules**

 All students are expected to adhere to the Liberty County Code of Conduct and school-wide SGMS expectations. In addition to these, I have established the following guidelines for my class:

1) Respect your teacher, your peers, and your classroom
2) Be on time, on task, and prepared to learn everyday
3) Take responsibility for your own learning
4) Clean up after yourself and help your peers
5) Give every task your best effort

6) Don’t be afraid to fail at a task

**Basically Be…. Prompt, Prepared, Polite, and Productive…**

Choosing not to comply with the class guidelines will result in the following progressive consequences:

1. Warning
2. Silent Lunch
3. Contact home
4. Office referral

**What You Can Expect From Me**

I run my classroom based on respect. You can expect to be treated with respect by a teacher who complies with her own classroom guidelines. You can expect me to be open regarding communication with home but private regarding communication in front of the class. Your business is none of anyone else’s business. You can expect to be treated fairly. My definition of “fair” is everyone getting what they personally need to succeed.

If you have any questions regarding this syllabus please contact me. If I don’t hear from you, I will assume that we are good to go! Let’s have an amazing year!

**Laboratory Safety**

 Please read the following laboratory safety guidelines carefully with your student. Should you have any questions please e-mail me at the above address.

**Student Laboratory Safety Guidelines**

1. No student may work in the laboratory without the teacher present.
2. No food or drinks are allowed in the science classroom with the exception of bottled water. Even bottled water is **not** allowed in designated laboratory areas.
3. Pranks or horseplay is strictly prohibited in the science classroom. Horseplay during a lab activity will result in removal from the laboratory area and a grade of **zero** for the hands-on portion of the lab (accounts for half the total lab grade).
4. Do not touch staged lab materials and equipment until instructed to do so.
5. Read all procedures thoroughly **before** beginning the lab activity.
6. Follow lab procedures **in sequence.** Do not skip steps or take “shortcuts”.
7. Unauthorized experiments are prohibited. If you are curious, and would like to try something in the lab ask the teacher.
8. All personal items (including purses) should be stored in your assigned storage area.
9. You must personally monitor your lab activity. Do not leave your lab station or distract other students.
10. **In case of a fire drill, all flames must be extinguished and equipment unplugged.**
11. Lab equipment and supplies are costly please respect this fact and treat these items with care. Do not be wasteful.

Laboratory Attire

1. Lab aprons are provided to protect your clothes from damage during the activity.
2. **Safety goggles and protective gloves must be worn as instructed during the duration of the activity.** Failure to utilize proper safety equipment will result in removal from the lab and a grade of **zero** for the hands-on portion of the lab (accounts for half the total lab grade).
3. Long hair should be tied back securely when participating in lab activities.
4. Dangling jewelry and student ID lanyards should be tucked in the shirt or apron to prevent injury.

 Please realize that this is to ensure the safety of your student as well as his or her classmates. With that in mind, choosing to not comply with these safety guidelines can (and, in certain cases mentioned above, **will**) result in removal from the laboratory activity and the loss of credit for that activity. Due to the risk involved these consequences are non-negotiable and attempts by the student to “negotiate” consequences will result in detention.