

Milford Middle School Mission Statement

Milford Middle School is committed to preparing students for the challenges of lifelong learning through a well-balanced program which promotes high academic expectations, places value upon involvement in school and community activities, and encourages the development of self-confidence and personal responsibility.

My Personal Mission Statement

My mission is to provide my students with an environment that will support them and allow them to discover and explore scientific and mathematical principals, and utilize problem solving skills to maximize their potential.

Course Objective

This course is intended to give students an introduction into general science by focusing on the science of inquiry. During the year we will explore and discover some concepts of basic chemistry such as: the properties of matter, matter and energy, heat and heat transfer, energy storage & transformations, the Periodic Table of the Elements, and chemical reactions. Later in the year we will learn about some basic properties of physics such as: forces and motion of particles and rigid bodies and engineering design.

Note to Parents/Guardians and Students

Please take the time to read the syllabus carefully and sign at the bottom of the last page. In order to keep the lines of communication open I ask that you provide your home number as well as your work number. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via phone or e-mail.

Supplies

Items students should purchase to have available for class during the 2012-13 school year include:

- No. 2 pencils w/an eraser
- A pen (BLACK or BLUE ink only)
- A Composition Notebook
- A 3 ring binder or folder with 3 prongs and College ruled notebook paper.
- Colored pencils and/or Highlighters (Optional)
- A calculator ** (Optional)
- Access to the internet.

****CALCULATOR RECOMMENDATION**

Although this is a science class, there are times when we will be required to complete some basic mathematical computations. Therefore a basic four-function calculator will suffice.

Class Rules/Policies

Class Rules:

- When Class begins it is your **Responsibility** to arrive ON TIME, seated and prepared to begin class when the bell rings.
- NO FOOD OR DRINK in the classroom. (A 20 oz. bottle of water will be permitted)
- NO BOOKBAGS
- NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES MAY BE USED DURING CLASS. That includes the use of cell phones and headphones. There is much that we need to accomplish in a short amount of time. These devices could cause a distraction.
- During class you have the opportunity to show **Integrity, Responsibility, and Civility**.
 - Please show **Respect** for the teacher by listening to all instructions carefully, and waiting until the appropriate time to speak.
 - Please show **Respect** for your classmates by behaving in an appropriate manner and using appropriate language.
- The End of class is your last opportunity to show **Responsibility and Civility**.
 - Please make sure that any and all assignments are copied into your assignment book before you leave.
 - Please make sure that any and all trash is placed into the waste receptacle.
 - Please DO NOT pack up before the class ends. The class ends when the bell rings, not before. Please remain seated until that time.
- All other rules will be determined through class discussions periodically throughout the year.

Discipline:

- Discipline problems of any kind will not be tolerated. Only ONE warning will be given. A second offence will result in Removal from the class.
- Continued offences will result in parent phone calls, after school detentions, discipline referrals, suspensions, etc.
- You are responsible for any work that is missed due to your removal from the class.

Attendance:

- Absences are, at times, unavoidable. However, it is YOUR responsibility to make up the work that you miss.
- If you are absent please see me at the beginning or end of class to receive missed assignments.
- If you are going to out for more than a day please contact me via e-mail or arrange for a classmate, sibling or parent to pick up the work for you.
- If you are absent the day of a quiz or test you will be required to take that quiz or test during the class or during resource on the next day you are in school.

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Mr. Lancos

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215-529-2263

Extra Help:

Students are Responsible for asking for extra help if and when it is needed.

- I am available for extra help during resource with a pass and after school. Please let me know when you plan to come to see me so I can give you a pass, or if you plan to stay after I can be sure to be in my room.
- Please do not wait until the end of the marking period, or the day of the test to ask for help. Last minute help will not be granted!!!

Grading Policy

Each Marking Period the grade is determined by the collection of evidence. The following is a list of the types of evidence that I will use to calculate the final grade.

Class Work/Lab Reports: Class work will be collected periodically to provide feedback and to improve understanding. Throughout the year there will be Labs that will require students to work both individually or in small groups. Cooperative group activities are an integral part of this course. It is expected that every student be an active contributor to his/her group. These labs will be pivotal in helping students to gain a more in-depth understanding of the concepts that we discuss in class.

Notebook: Students are expected to keep an organized Notebook. This notebook should contain definitions, theorems, and examples that are crucial to the understanding of the concepts that are covered in the course.

Homework: Occasionally you will receive assignments that must be completed outside class. These assignments are intended for you to practice a set of skills that we have learned, or to reinforce a concept that we are working on. It is important that you keep up on these assignments. Students who consistently and conscientiously complete these assignments perform significantly better on assessments and assignments than students who fail to complete the assignments.

Quizzes: Throughout the year there will be written quizzes which will give students an opportunity to show me what they have learned in the class and in the labs. Each assessment will be analyzed to determine areas of strength and weakness. Additional assignments may be given based on your performance on those quizzes. At the end of the quiz all test materials must be turned in. Students who walk out with test materials will be assigned an incomplete and will be required to complete an alternative assessment. **All Tests and Quizzes MUST be completed in Pencil. (NO EXCEPTIONS!)**

Scoring Rubric for Students

All Scores are based on the most recent, comprehensive evidence requiring high levels of cognitive demand.

4—The student exceeds learning target by performing at exemplary levels. Some examples of this include:

- Breaking content into its components
- Making connections
- Applying learning target to a new situation
- Offering alternative perspectives
- Employing other higher order thinking skills

3.5—The student meets and sometimes exceeds learning target as exhibited in performances on basic application, strategic and extended thinking activities. A student who scores a 3.5 has sometimes shown exemplary performance on activities that require a high level of cognitive demand.

3—The student meets the learning target as exhibited in performances on recall, basic application, strategic and extended thinking activities.

2.5—The student almost meets learning targets as exhibited in performances on recall, basic application, strategic and extended thinking activities.

2—The student is approaching an understanding of the learning target as exhibited in performances on recall, basic application, strategic and extended thinking activities.

1.5—The student is beginning to develop necessary skills to meet the learning targets as exhibited in performances on recall, basic application, strategic and extended thinking activities.

1—The student exhibits limited skills necessary to meet the learning targets as shown in performances on recall, basic application, strategic and extended thinking activities.

0.5—The student does not exhibit necessary skills to meet the learning targets as shown in performances on recall, basic application, strategic and extended thinking activities.

0—NE/No evidence of learning towards the target was shown

Retake Policy

Since learning does not end in a test, your grade should not be fixed after a test or a quiz is complete. Often you will not completely understand a concept going into a test. Then, soon after the test the concept will become clear to you. Because of this, students will have the opportunity to retake quizzes for **FULL CREDIT**.

Limitations:

- **You will not be allowed to remediate if the original homework assignments are not completed!**
- Quizzes may not be retaken the day they are returned. This will allow for the opportunity to study the concepts before the before the retake, thus improving the chances of a higher grade.
- An approved Remediation Plan **MUST** be completed, signed by a parent, and approved by the teacher **BEFORE** beginning your remediation work.
- Re-takes will contain the same number of concepts, but you may be asked to show more in-depth understanding. The questions may be a different format and the numbers **WILL** be changed.
- **No re-takes will be allowed in the last week of the marking period.**
- All retakes must be taken before or after school.
- **Do Not Abuse This Privilege**—Students who show that they are repeatedly not making an effort to study the first time may lose the privilege of retaking quizzes.

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Note to Parents/Guardians: I will do my best to touch base with every parent over the course of the 1st marking period. However, please be aware that I have quite a few phone calls and e-mails to write. As a result that will take time, so please be patient. If you have updated your information on-line I will have access to the phone number and e-mail that you have provided. If you could fill out the information below that will give me the best way to contact you and let me know that you have read the syllabus. If there is ever a need to contact me, please do not hesitate to do so.

☐ All of my information is up to date with the district via the online registration.

☐ My information is NOT up to date. Please use the contact information below.

Home Phone (____) ____—____ Work Phone (____) ____—____

Parent's E-mail Address: _____

Best way to contact parent/guardian: ☐ Home Phone ☐ Work Phone ☐ E-mail

Parent's/Guardian's Name (Please Print)

Student's Name (Please Print)

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Student's Signature