

Course Name: 8th grade Science/Pre AP Science
Instructor: Ms. Baffour
Email: nana.baffour@fbisd.com
Website: <http://www.fortbendisd.com/Domain/5922>
Phone Number: 281-327-0198



Conference Time: 4th Period: 12:00 - 12:50

Tutorial Days & Times: Tuesday and Thursday after school (4:15-5:00) There are buses to get your student home. In the mornings by appointment only.

I would like to take this time to welcome you and your son/daughter to 8th grade science. I know we are all excited about starting a new school year and I hope together we can keep the enthusiasm growing every week. My name is Ms. Baffour, and this is my 9th year teaching. I have always taught middle school students and love the challenges and rewards that my students give me.

8th grade science focuses mainly on earth science, but we will also be investigating many other topics including:

First Semester

- **Safety & Review of Scientific Process**
- **Relationships between Force, Motion and Energy**
- **Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table Trends**
- **Chemical Reactions**

Second Semester

- **Characteristics of the Universe**
- **Sun, Moon, and Earth Relationships**
- **Earth Forces in Nature: Plate Tectonics**
- **Ocean and Weather Systems**
- **Ecology**



Grading Rubric:

Major Grades: 50% of the grading period average

- Unit Tests
- Unit ISN Checks
- Projects

Daily Grades: 50% of the grading period average

- Daily Assignments
- Labs
- Quizzes

Semester Exams are cumulative assessments and are 15% of the semester grade.

All notices of major grade assignments will be posted on my webpage two weeks in advance. Students will also get notice in the classroom one week prior to the major assessment.



I will always post what is expected to be completed in class on my board and in the weekly newsletters. Please take the opportunity to look at your child's ISN to see what they are up to in science class.

Retest/Progressive Testing Policy:

During the nine weeks, each test will have 60% new information and 40% old information. If a student does not fare well on the first test and does better on the second test, the score of the second test will replace the first test score.

I will also offer retests. All students will have the opportunity to be reassessed if they make a grade below 75 on any test that counts as a major grade. However, this opportunity will not take place during the regular instructional day, only during tutorials after students have attended a one on one meeting with me about their misunderstandings of the unit.

Make-Up Work Policy:



If a student is absent it is their responsibility to turn in any work that was owed that day. It is also their responsibility to pick up any assignments or papers that were handed out. I will have a box with the papers for each absent student in the front of the classroom. Students and parents are encouraged to log into Skyward to monitor their grades.

Late Work Policy:

Students will be allowed to submit late work but no more than three days after the assignment is due. However, for each late day, the student's grade is reduced by 10 points.

Materials Needed:

For science class, each student will need **2 composition notebooks** during the year to be used only for science. These will be known as their "interactive science notebooks" or ISN's. We will use one each semester.



The use of the composition books will be used everyday in science class and will have everything your child needs to be successful. It must be brought to class every day. I will ask you to take part in your child's ISN at the end of every unit. There will be a short parent/guardian section for you to fill out as part of your child's ISN grade. This has proven to be a great way for us to communicate with each other and for your child to communicate with you about his/her science class work.

Besides the ISN, I will be asking each student to have the following supplies for science class. These materials must come to class everyday in order to be successful.

- **A pencil or A pen**
- **Colored pencils or crayons**
- **2 different color highlighters**
- **Glue Sticks and/or double sided tape**
- **Other materials may be needed at times during labs or projects**

Classroom Expectations/Routines:



Throughout the year I hope to communicate with you about your child's progress in science class as well as their growth as individual young adults. I send weekly emails about what we will be discussing in class; including the projects I will be assigning and dates for when the tests will be taken, as well general classroom updates. I have a website

available will tons of information about my classroom and the activities that we are working on. Please bookmark the website and visit it frequently.



Please make sure that you read, sign and return the **Student Safety Contract** to me as soon as possible. Also, please be aware that your child must **pass with a 100% a Science Safety Test**. We will be going over science safety and inquiry all year long. Both the contract and the test must be on file before any labs can begin in class.



Cell phones will not be allowed to be out on the science tables unless specifically told to be out. If cell phones are seen they will be taken up and turned in.

Due to safety issues, backpacks/oversized purses are not encouraged in science class. Students will be asked to put their backpacks in the front of the room in a bin. They will not be allowed to have access to their backpacks during the class period. Students need to bring their Binder and ISN to class.

I am always available for any questions or concerns that you may have during the year. There are several ways to contact me; email, phone, conferences, and ISN notes. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

My email is nana.baffour@fortbendis.com and my phone number is 281-327-0198.

Please make sure that your Skyward email address and phone number is up to date. I look forward to working with you and your child this year.