



Welcome To 8th Grade Science



Welcome parents! I am looking forward to another fantastic year at Kealing Middle School! More importantly, I am looking forward to working with you and your student this year. Of all the disciplines, science is the most relevant to the continuation of life on earth. We will be using earth science as a lens to connect core concepts in weather phenomena, climate change, hydrology, chemistry, astronomy, geology, and paleogeography (dynamic syllabus on back). Along with this letter your students received the following at our first meeting:

1. Paper Shortage Form
2. Scavenger Hunt: Students should take you through this and help you navigate my website!
3. **An AISD Safety form- failure to return this safety form on time may result in one or more failing grades since, according to district policy; no student may participate in lab activities until the signed document is received.** We will be doing labs beginning the second time class meets, so it is imperative that this form be returned to me immediately. It is also important that you read and understand Kealing's technology agreement. Our class will use computers daily for **academic purposes only**.

Contacting me: The best way to communicate with me is through e-mail at Ttasneem@austinisd.org. You can reach me by phone at 841-1145 should you need to speak with me directly.

Supplies: For this class your student will need a 2-inch binder with dividers, pen (**any color but pink**) and pencil, colored pencils (at least eight), and a plastic metric ruler. **We do not have an official textbook.** My classes use the internet as the primary source for current information. There are also many supplemental readings taken from a variety of peer-reviewed sources and college textbooks. I do have reference books available for use in the classroom, and available to be checked out for studying.

Rules: The school wide Kealing rules and discipline policy will be enforced in my classroom. In short, be prompt, be prepared, be productive, and be polite. I guarantee I will call you if we have issues with any of these rules. Please feel free to contact me if *you* have any questions!

Grades: Grades will be determined by the following percentages:

Labs	40%
Tests	30%
Homework Starters/Classwork	20%
Quizzlets	10%

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to adhere to the Honor Code in the conduct of all written examinations, tests, quizzes, and projects that take place in class. If students are caught cheating, all students involved will receive a grade of ZERO.

Late Policy: All work is expected to be turned in on time. Students may turn in assignments up to 3 days late, but will earn a maximum grade of 50. After 3 days, the student will earn zero points. Students may not turn in an assignment late if they have been given an entire class period to work on the assignment. They should turn in the work they have done for a grade, or earn zero points for that assignment. Makeup work (work missed due to absence) must be made up within ONE WEEK'S time, and **it is the student's responsibility to do so**. My office hours are Tuesdays after school from 3:00-4:30. I encourage students to keep records of their own grades, but again, please contact me if you have any questions.

ttasneem.yolasite.com: My website is a great way to keep up with class, however please be aware that some assignments may not be available electronically and will be provided to students in class.

Let's Get Ready for a Great Year!

Tania Tasneem

Theme	Duration	General Topic	Concepts Covered	F A L L
It's Up In The Air	5 weeks	Weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Heat Transfer ➤ Convection ➤ Density ➤ Conduction ➤ Evaporation ➤ Condensation ➤ Atmospheric Chemistry 	
	4 weeks	Climate Fall Project!!!!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Global winds ➤ Density ➤ Effects of landmasses ➤ Atmospheric Chemistry ➤ Changes over time 	
Sweet, Fresh Water	4 weeks	Hydrology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aquifers ➤ Porosity ➤ Permeability ➤ Pollution ➤ Usage ➤ Chemistry of water ➤ Freezing/boiling point ➤ Density 	
The Deep Blue Sea	4 weeks	Oceanography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Density ➤ Convection ➤ Thermo cline ➤ Currents ➤ Tides ➤ Waves ➤ Ocean floor features 	
A Molecular Moment	4 weeks	Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Periodic table ➤ Elements, molecules and mixtures ➤ Phases of matter ➤ Intrinsic properties of matter ➤ Metals & nonmetals ➤ Ionic Bonding ➤ Covalent Bonding ➤ Density 	
A Star Is Born	2 weeks	Astronomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our solar system ➤ The universe ➤ Star formation ➤ Planet formation ➤ Density ➤ Time ➤ Changes over time 	
Rock Steady	3 weeks	Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minerals ➤ Rocks ➤ Density ➤ Rock Cycle 	
The Dynamic Earth	4 weeks	Paleogeography and stratigraphy Spring Project!!!!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Earthquakes ➤ Volcanoes ➤ Force and Motion ➤ Geologic time ➤ Plate Tectonics ➤ Continental Drift ➤ Changes over time 	
Making Healthy Choices	2 weeks		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Drugs ➤ Sex ➤ Rock and roll 	

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