

Course Syllabus

Class: 8th Grade Science

Teacher: Lori Watson

Contact Information:

School Phone: 443-3101

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Course Description:

Earth Science investigates several topics, including basic physics, weathering & soil formation, fossils, geologic time, plate tectonics, environments & ecosystems. Approximately one quarter will be spent on scientific inquiry (scientific method), although these steps will be revisited throughout the year.

Materials Needed:

Textbooks (4 separate "mini" textbooks)

Approximately 100 sheets of 3 ring notebook paper for daily folder

Helpful but not required: calculator, colored pencils, flash drive

Academic/Behavioral Expectations:






Each day in science is a bit different. Some class periods we will have structured reading time or note taking. Many class periods will have guided activities or labs, and students may be working individually or in groups. No matter the structure, students are expected to work within Wahoo Middle School's academic and behavioral expectations. (WEBSS goals)

Grading:

Grades are calculated by point total. Daily assignments earn a completion grade of 1 bonus point each if turned in on time, and all are expected to be completed. Larger assignments are usually 5-10 points, projects and labs are approximately 25 points, and tests are approximately 50 points. The more points earned, the higher the grade. Other bonus opportunities will be available as well. Retakes are allowed on all tests and labs/projects. There is usually a one week grace period for retakes, but can be extended at my discretion.

Assignments:

All work is due at the beginning of the class period unless otherwise noted. Test, quizzes, and projects will be announced in advance and need to be completed the day they are assigned.

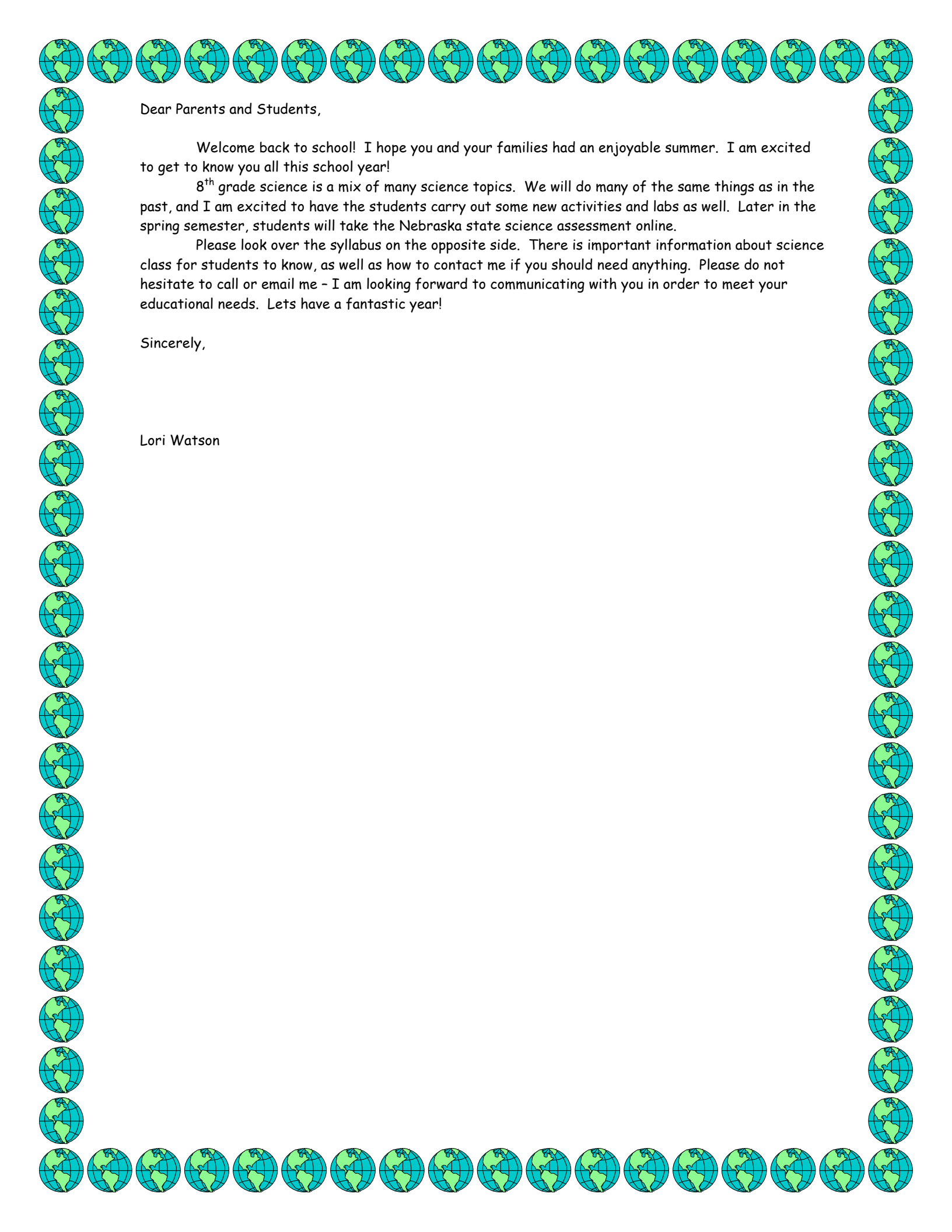
-  1 test per unit
-  1 current event writing summary per month (Incorporate reading strategies)
-  Approximately 1 lab report per unit
-  1 Folder grade per quarter (includes focus questions, vocabulary, and other writings)
-  Other assignments/activities per unit at discretion of teacher.

Other Information:

I teach half-time and am only here for afternoon classes, generally from noon-4pm. While I will do my best to touch base with anyone absent, students are ultimately responsible for getting any assignments, notes, etc. from class if they miss class. Late penalties may apply.

Students can seek additional help from me in several ways. I am available during 7th period, after school, lunch or via email.

Students are responsible for the condition of their textbook while it is in their possession. Lost books or those returned that have suffered damage more than normal wear and tear will have fines assessed.



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to school! I hope you and your families had an enjoyable summer. I am excited to get to know you all this school year!

8th grade science is a mix of many science topics. We will do many of the same things as in the past, and I am excited to have the students carry out some new activities and labs as well. Later in the spring semester, students will take the Nebraska state science assessment online.

Please look over the syllabus on the opposite side. There is important information about science class for students to know, as well as how to contact me if you should need anything. Please do not hesitate to call or email me - I am looking forward to communicating with you in order to meet your educational needs. Lets have a fantastic year!

Sincerely,

Lori Watson