

August 23, 2023

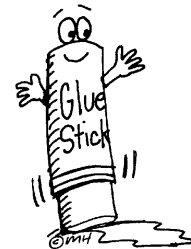
Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! My name is Michelle Nichols and I am honored to be teaching your child science this school year. I have been an educator in Charleston County for 20 years and I love teaching adolescents. I am looking forward to working with your child to ensure that his or her last year of middle school is exciting, successful, and memorable. My goal is to help your child prepare for a rigorous high school curriculum in math and science, and to be successful in life as well.

I would like to make you aware of several avenues available regarding communication, progress updates, extra help, and unit resources. Below you will find my course resources and expectations for the new school year. Extra help will be offered during homeroom and during lunch/recess when I do not have lunch duty.

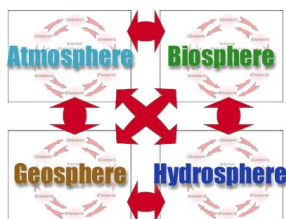
Materials Needed

- 5 subject notebook with a durable plastic cover
- Graph paper
- Colored pencils (to differentiate concepts on models)
- Glue sticks (at least 4)



Course Topics

In the 6th and 7th grades, students learned about three of the four interacting components of the earth system: hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere. In the 8th grade, students will learn about the geosphere. The geosphere is saved until the 8th grade due to its abstract nature and the long-term time factors of plate tectonics. All middle school students should develop an understanding of how the four major components of the earth system work together by the end of the 8th grade. I find that many students see each year of science disconnected from one another and, therefore, never see the connection between all of the components of the earth system. My goal is to help them make that connection. All course topics are derived from the South Carolina State Standards and all students will have a copy of the state standards in their binders to check off as they are mastered.



Assessment and Grading

Percentage	Form of Assessment	Explanation
30%	Tests	-Tests are administered upon completion of a thematic unit of study. Students will have essay and multiple choice/short answer tests.
20%	Quizzes	-Quizzes are given upon completion of learning one or two specific skills or a group of related vocabulary words, which will again be assessed on the unit test.
20%	Classwork/labs	-Classwork/labs will be collected and graded at teacher discretion. Students must follow lab report guidelines to receive full credit on labs.
20%	Projects	-Several projects will be assigned each nine weeks. -Projects will be group and individual assignments. -Stories of Science (concept map of the big ideas) will be due at the end of each nine weeks.
10%	Homework/error analysis/class participation	-Homework is an essential tool in learning any subject, as practice and repetition are the keys to learning. -Homework is checked for completion and effort. -ISN notebooks will be checked for proper note taking, organization, and daily assignments. - Error analysis- Students will receive a grade for analyzing incorrect responses to tests and quizzes. -Students will be given points for class participation and participation during group work.



Communication

Generally speaking emails are the best form of communication when trying to reach me. Email messages will be answered within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends. If you prefer to speak with me directly, please call the front office to arrange a conference.

Email- michelle_nichols@charleston.k12.sc.us

Front Office Phone Number- 843-849-2819

Resources

Weekly assignments, announcements, and course resources will all be posted on Google Classroom. All parents are welcome to join as an observer. Tests and quizzes will be posted as soon as they are scheduled. Students will be encouraged to write these down at the beginning of each week so that they may budget their time accordingly.

Progress Updates

For “real time” progress reports, Moultrie Middle School provides parents with access to PowerSchool through the school’s website. PowerSchool will give you access to your child’s grades in all their classes as they are at that moment. ***For those parents without email or access to computers you can simply send a note and I will send home a hard copy of your child’s current grades at any time.***

You play an important part in your child's school success. Have a conversation with your child about his/her assignments and behaviors within the classroom. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I am looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Michelle Nichols, M.Ed., NBCT



**** Please complete the google form on my website or return this signature page to show receipt of this letter by August 28, 2023.****

Student Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Email Address: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

Parents, please list the best way for me to contact you should I need to do so. Also, please list anything else that you feel is important for me to know so that I can serve your child as best as possible!

The best way/time to contact me is . . .

I would like you to know . . .

- We have read and discussed the class information letter.
- We are aware that we can access all class assignments from Google Classroom.

Student
Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

