***Mr. Saurer’s 8th Grade Science Class Disclosure***

**Website: saurer.weebly.com**

**Email: bjsaurer@graniteschools.org**

**Consultation: 7th period**

**What will we be doing in 8th grade science?**

There are 4 overarching ideas or “strands” in the 8th grade science core curriculum. Those strands can be further broken down into a total of 21 “standards”. The 4 strands are:

Strand 1: Matter and energy interact in the physical world (7 standards)

Strand 2: Energy is stored and transferred in physical systems (6 standards)

Strand 3: Life systems store and transfer matter and energy (3 standards)

Strand 4: Interactions with natural systems and resources (5 standards)

After a couple of weeks of introductory and review activities, we will be starting with the strands and standards in the order they are written, with the goal to complete all of them by the time students take their state standardized test for the class in the spring.

**What are the class rules?**

Students are expected to follow classroom rules at all times. Of primary concern in my classroom are **respect** and **safety,** andall classroom rules can be boiled down to those. If a student shows disrespect to me, another student, or for safety rules they can expect immediate action. BJH has a system of behavior interventions that I will be implementing in my classroom. In general, the first issue with a student will get a verbal warning. The second issue will require the student to fill out one of the school’s “Refocus” forms and discuss the form with me. The third issue will require the student to fill out one of the school’s “Think Time” forms, discuss the form with me, and I will be contacting home at that point. Overall, students will be expected to respect the physical space (don’t touch each other), property (classmates’ and school), and opinions/feelings (be tactful) of each other at all times. It is important to me that my classroom is a safe and friendly environment to work in, and my rules emphasize this attitude.

**How are students graded?**

Students will be graded using proficiency-based grading. PBG gives numbers from 1 to 4 instead of letter grades. All of the 21 standards in this class will have at least 3 assessments each. The most recent assessment is worth the most, and the oldest assessment is worth the least. PBG values are like this:

4- Highly Proficient: The student exceeds expectations and can apply the standard in complex ways

3- Proficient: The student meets the expectations described and can do them independently (note: proficient is good! We are trying to get every student to this level, and earning a 3 is doing great.)

2- Approaching Proficient: The student is getting close to meeting expectations independently

1- Below Proficient: The student needs support from me to do the simpler parts of the standard

**Citizenship scores:** Students have quarterly citizenship scores that reflect their attendance, tardiness, and classroom behavior. Much like PBG, a 3 in citizenship is a student that is meeting behavior expectations, while scores of 1 or 2 need improvement. A 4 in citizenship is an exemplary student!

**Attendance, make-up work, and late work policy:** Attendance will be taken daily, and tardies and absences will be recorded. If a student is absent, they will have time allotted to complete anything missing without penalty upon their return to school (at least a week, unless the end of a term does not allow for a week). I just ask that the student talks to me about what is missing when they come back.

Please sign and return this form to me as soon as possible. Thank you and here’s to a great year!

Student name (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent name (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Any contact information that parents are willing to share like cell phone number, email, or any other pertinent information, please write it below. Thank you.