**7th Grade Course Syllabus and Classroom Procedures**

 **Laurin Middle School**

 **Mrs. Angela Sauser**

**Course Descriptions:**

**Math:** Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

**Science:** The focus is on Life Science with an integration of Chemistry, Physical Science and Earth Science. Concepts, which are found in common with other sciences, will be emphasized in themes and may include environmental interactions, systems and structures, energy, and changes over time.

**Preparation for Class:** Students are required to bring a pencil, paper, completed homework, Interactive Notebook (lab book) and textbook to each class unless otherwise directed. Students should enter the class quietly and be ready to begin immediately.

**Grading:** The course grade will be made up of two parts.

70% Assessments (quizzes, tests, etc.), Performance Tasks, Interactive Notebook

30% Class Assignments (textbook or worksheets), Bell Ringers/Exit Cards

**Assignments:** All assignments will be posted on the white board. Students are to copy the information into their student agenda with noted due dates. The Interactive Notebooks will be collected regularly and should be kept up-to-date.

**Late Work:** Work turned in late will be deducted 10% each day for the first 4 days. Upon the 5th day (+), no more than half credit will be given. There will be “Homework Completion” for students with missing work. This will meet during lunch.

**Missed Work:** It is the student’s responsibility to obtain the homework assignments, notes & any other pertinent information that is missed during an absence.

* **Missed work due to an absence:** Additional time and full credit will be given for verifiable and excused absences. One day for each day of the excused absence will be given to complete missed assignments. If more than 5 consecutive days are missed, arrangements will be made to get the student caught up with missing work. A plan may be devised with the 7th grade teaching team and/or the administrator.

**Classroom Expectations:** The teacher and students are expected to **STRIVE** for excellence in the Science classroom. Daily, we will:

 S-Stay focused

 T-Take Responsibility

 R-Respect Everyone

 I-Inspire Others

 V-Value Education

 E-Expect Success

\*\*It is also expected that the students follow the rules, expectations and conduct required as listed in the School Handbook. Other expectations may be required for various topics to insure safety.

A little about myself…

as a teacher
I love teaching!  I truly do!  I **almost**(let’s be honest) always wake up with excitement for another school day to begin.  I trhonestly can’t think of an aspect of teaching that I don’t enjoy.  I love getting to know the parents and talking to them; I like Parent/Teacher Conferences; I’m thrilled when I get to attend a seminar or workshop; and I appreciate time to collaborate with my fellow colleagues.  Even discipline can be a positive, growing experience for both the student and teacher.  My husband has often teased me about not having any hobbies—but really, teaching is my hobby.  I don’t feel like teaching is a job that I have in order to pay the bills; it’s my passion in life!

Prior to moving back home to southwest Washington, I worked at developing a pre-k and Kindergarten program at Palisades Christian Academy in Spokane, Washington.  I was able to run a thriving Kindergarten program with a beginning enrollment of only 6 students and soaring to 26 students in my first two years at PCA.  After the success with that program, it was forced to split into three different classes in order to accommodate the enrollment.

I have teaching experience in pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, first, second, fifth and seventh grades as a homeroom teacher.  I have taught specific reading classes for Kindergarten, first and third grades.  I’ve also worked with students in 5-8th grades in their reading, language arts, writing, math and science courses as a resource teacher.

**My ideal job involves teaching science to children**!  **I LOVE SCIENCE**and I love to work with curious minds.  It’s so much fun to teach science to young children because they are naturally inquisitive.  My father is also a biology teacher/principal at a school north of Seattle and my love for science stems from him beginning at an early age.  With my husband also studying biology & chemistry, a love for plants and animals is heavily prominent in our home.  Here in the great Northwest, we've got nature all around us so it's easy to incorporate a love for science into the academic curriculum.

**My mission as an educator is to create a love for learning in each student that comes to my classroom.**  It is my desire and goal for my students to love coming to school each day!  If the students are excited about coming to school in the morning, I know that I am doing my job at instilling that love for learning.  So much of what we do as adults revolves around reading, math and science and I want each student to be successful learners and apply these skills in their daily lives.

I also believe in consistent and open communication with the parents, students and fellow staff.  This is the fundamental key to each child’s success.  Each student needs to know that we are all working together, as a team, to help in their success.

If you have any questions, please contact me. My school email is sauser.angela@battlegroundps.org. I’m looking forward to a great year here at Laurin Middle School!