

# **Mr. Gotham's Science Classes**

## **Personal Information:**

This year I will be teaching three sections of eighth grade science and two sections of seventh grade science at Linden Middle School. This is my fifteenth year teaching in the Linden School District. I taught at both the fourth and fifth grade levels at Central Elementary for seven years and I have taught both science and language arts at the middle school. In addition to teaching, I am the Chair- person for the Linden Ski Club. I have a B.A. degree from Saginaw Valley State University and a Master's degree in the art of teaching from Marygrove College. I have been married to my wife Trisia for over fourteen years. My wife and I have a wonderful six and a half year old son named Anthony Craig. I enjoy fishing, traveling, snow skiing, golfing, listening to music, playing cards and spending time with my family and friends.

## **Introduction:**

I look forward to working with students and parents alike to make this school year as productive and successful as possible. I firmly believe that it is necessary for teachers, students, and parents to be involved in the educational process for optimum student success.

## **Materials Needed:**

The following items are needed for my science classes. It would be helpful for students to have these materials by the end of the first week of school. These items are necessary and required for class daily. If for some reason you cannot provide these items for your child, please contact me so we can work something out.

- \*Two 1-inch three-ring binders labeled science (1 to keep at home for completed units)
- \* One pack (of at least 12) subject tab dividers with labels
- \*1-2 Highlighters
- \*Calculator, colored pencils, and markers (optional)
- \*Pencil pouch with zippered pocket and 3-holes to place in binder
- \*Pencils to bring to class daily and extras in pencil pouch
- \*Lined loose leaf paper to place in science binder
- \*Colored correcting pen or marker (preferably red)
- \*Free-time reading book to bring to class everyday

## **Assignments and Homework:**

- \* Agenda for the day and homework (if applicable) will be posted in the classroom daily and kept in a trimester binder for extended absences. A recap of what we do in class each day will be posted on Teacher Web for parents/students to view from home.

\* All assignments will have due dates and must be turned in at the beginning of the class hour. Assignments not turned in at this time will be considered late.

\* Late assignments will only be accepted one day after the due date for ½ credit. Assignments not turned in within one day of a due date will receive zero credit.

\*Students are responsible for finding out what work/information was covered while he/she was absent upon returning to school. Students are to copy down what they missed from the daily agenda/work log and get any missing worksheets, notes, handouts etc. from the “while you were out bins.” Students will have one day to complete missing assignments for each day they were absent.

### **Rules:**

1. Follow directions the first time they are given
2. Keep hands, feet, objects, and unkind comments to self
3. Respect yourself, others, and all school property

### **Classroom Expectations:**

I expect students to be responsible, come to class on time, be in their seat before class begins, and be prepared with the necessary materials and/or assignments for the day. Students are expected to follow all classroom and school rules listed on this letter and those listed in the school handbook. A behavior notebook will be kept in the room for students who choose not to comply with classroom and/or school rules. If a student makes a poor choice in class, they will go through the Interim Classroom process and be asked to write his/her name in the behavior notebook. This notebook will serve as an “in class” running record of students who are making poor choices and be a warning before the student is directed to the IR classroom.

### **Curriculum:**

8th Grade = Earth Science

7th Grade = Life and Physical Science

### **Extra Credit-**

- 1) Students may earn up to six points extra credit for turning in comic strips from the newspaper or internet that **specifically** pertain to science. Students can earn three points for each comic turned in. Students must write his/her name and hour on the back of the comic and turn in to the extra credit bin (2 comics maximum per trimester).
- 2) Students will also earn six points extra credit for trimesters two, three, if he/she has no missing or late assignments from the prior

trimester.

- 3) From time to time, students may have additional opportunities to earn extra credit. For example, students may be asked to look for current news articles that pertain to what we are studying in class.

Sincerely,

Craig Gotham