**Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Dear Parents,

 Welcome to 8th Grade Environmental Science, high school credit program! I am very excited about challenging your child this year and inspiring them to do great things!

 As expected this class is designed to challenge your student to think scientifically and to become aware of environmental issues of the past, present and future.

I am writing this to let you know of several things I need you to do to make sure that your child has a successful school year.

**Environmental Science Supply List:** 1 subject notebook

**21st Century Learning/Digital Citizenship/Parent Communication**

This is a big heading, I know. However, all three of these are connected with the internet-based classroom community that I will be using this year. I teach from my webpage and you will find all the resources you need to help your child be successful this year easily accessible there. My webpage is [www.8thgradesciencehcms.weebly.com](http://www.8thgradesciencehcms.weebly.com). On my homepage, you can send me a message, you can sign up for email alerts when I post another blog, you can view the classroom curriculum map and the syllabus, and you can browse through each of our units to see what your child is doing in science class, and you can download classroom documents.

 **BYOD** (bring your own device) is allowed in my classroom however, I reserve the right to remove any devices that are being used inappropriately in my classroom. No selfies, no pictures for non-academic reasons, no texting in class or social media of any sort. **1st offense**: student must turn over their device to me for the class period. **2nd offense**: student must turn over their device to me for the entire day. **3rd offense**: student device will be turned into the office for parent to pick up. **After the 3rd offense, student loses all device privileges in my classroom.**

**Environmental Science Curriculum**

 I will be using portions of the high school strands from the Next Generation Science Standards that I deem appropriate for the Environmental Science aspect of this course. For a full curriculum overview please view the curriculum map on the homepage of my webpage.

**Expectations**

 **Attendance:** This is the biggie! I cannot teach your child if they are not in class! If your child is absent, they must get on my webpage and see the posts that they have missed and/or any assignments they must turn in. They must come to me BEFORE school or AFTER school or during my planning period. It is up to the student to request any make-up work they need. They will have the same amount of days that they missed to make up any assignments. HOWEVER, there may be some assignments that cannot be made up; class discussions, performance assessments, labs, presentations, debates, etc. All of these are valuable experiences that will be simply lost unless the student is present in the classroom.

 **Late Work Policy:** There is a strict **NO LATE WORK POLICY** in the 8th grade. The 8th grade team of teachers have decided that to better prepare our students for high school and the world beyond, we should keep our expectations high. We know that things happen and that sometimes we forget, however if an assignment is late, it will not be accepted. If a student knows that they will be late turning in an assignment, they should approach the situation with an explanation in writing before the assignment is due to request an extension. If this protocol is not followed, the probability is low that the assignment will be accepted, however each situation is different.

**Book Studies**

 In lieu of a textbook, our class book is a non-fiction called *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. Rachel Carson was a biologist and published this book in 1962 and basically ignited an environmental science movement in which ultimately lead to the beginning of the Environmental Protection Agency. This books aligns well with the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan. Students will be bringing their own version of this book that I will provide for them, but it will need to be returned to me when we are finished with it.

**In-Class Projects:**  We construct a lot of collaborative projects in my classroom. This being said, anytime your student has a project please don’t feel like you need to go out and purchase extra materials for them. My goal is for them to become imaginative problem solvers and upcycle materials that they would normally throw away or that they are not using to bring in from home.

I know that this all seems like a lot. My goal is to produce some great thinkers and problem solvers while inspiring their sense of wonder. Productive struggle is more meaningful than shuffling through the school day.

Expect periodic newsletters from me to let you know of upcoming events in science class.

This is a contract between you and I to make sure that we do what is best for your child academically. Please sign on the signature line so that I know that you have read and agree to all the expectations.

Sincerely,

Larisa McKinney \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8th Grade Science Parent Signature

larisa.mckinney@henry.kyschools.us