

**WCS Middle School**  
**Math Science Technology Center (MS)<sup>2</sup>TC**  
**English Language Arts / Science 8**  
**2018-2019**

Teacher

Mr. N. Davis

Room Numbers

113 / 134

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\*Schoology accounts for all students are coming soon!

**ELA 8**

**Overview:**

The (MS)<sup>2</sup>TC English Language Arts curriculum uses the writer's and reader's workshop model to frame instruction. The course includes shared reading in class, independent reading, writing for authentic purposes, language study, word study, and speaking opportunities, while continuing to integrate math and science concepts. The coursework is aligned with Common Core State Standards (CCSS), and combining these approaches will provide students experiences in reading and writing both literary and informational texts.

**Read every day and record it on your RAH! calendar. Find books you like and read a ton. 30 minutes is a minimum not a maximum. Reading should be part of your daily life.** Research has shown that of all the tasks students do for "homework," reading for pleasure has the most impact on student learning and achievement.

**Write in your writer's notebook a few times a week. Write about things you care about. Use your notebook to try out new genres, practice skills taught in mini-lessons, and play with language.** Writing skill is developed over years of hard work. In order to gain skills, students must practice writing for themselves. After mastering idea development and organization, middle school writers work to develop strong voice, sentence fluency, and word choice in their writing.

Classroom

Library:

Our classroom library is extensive and includes titles that are appropriate for a variety of reading and maturity levels. This library is open to all students who have approval from parents/guardians. These books range from classics to young adult bestsellers. My classroom rule is that if a student is reading something that he/she feels is not appropriate, or if his/her parents would object, he/she should abandon the book and select a different title to read

**Science 8**

**Overview:**

The Earth and Space Science 8 course is based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The NGSS describe what it means to be proficient in science. The topics that will be explored include chemistry, space science, and Earth science and processes.

Overall  
Class  
Expectations:

1. Enter class every day with an open mind to try new things.
2. Come to class prepared and ready to work hard.
3. Approach learning with a growth mindset (I think I can!).
4. Be respectful.
5. Be brave. Speak up. Participate.
6. Be curious. Be inquisitive. Ask questions.
7. Be reliable.
8. Write and read a lot.

Understand that we learn by doing.

Suggested  
Class  
Supplies:

Please bring the following to class **every day**:

1. A pen and/or pencil
2. Your writer's notebook/science notebook
3. A folder with three-hole fasteners in the middle to keep in class as a portfolio (you may use last year's)
4. A 1.5" binder for lessons/notes. This will be your "textbook." (w/8 binder tabs)
5. Your agenda.
6. The book you are currently reading.
7. Also recommended: zippered pouch with supplies including colored pencils or markers, scissors, & glue; a flash drive

Grading  
Policy

Assigned work is weighted according to WCS District Policy:  
75% Assessment  
25% Homework

**ELA Student assessment grades** are based on the student’s mastery of standards in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and language. Assessments can include writing assignments, reading assignments, portfolios, book talks, presentations, projects, and No Red Ink online quizzes. Rewrite opportunities are available on some assignments. These will be noted in the gradebook on Power School. Some work that is done at home will be included in the assessment category.

**SCIENCE** Classwork not finished in class is due the next day unless specified by teacher. Sometimes a student will work independently and other times in groups or with a partner. Assignments will be graded based on a combination of effort, completeness and accuracy. The average of all homework assignments will be 25% of student grade. Assessments may be interdisciplinary or content specific projects, lab activities, quizzes, and tests.

<u>Standards Based Grading</u>			<u>Grade Scale</u>					
1	Exceeds Standard	100-90	A+	100-98	C+	79-77	E	59-50
2	Meets Standard	89-70	A	97-93	C	76-73	F	49-0
3	Approaching Standard	69-50	A-	92-90	C-	72-70		
4	Area of Concern	49-0	B+	89-87	D+	69-67		
			B	86-83	D	66-63		
			B-	82-80	D-	62-60		

Late Work: Any late work will be marked down 25% from the grade earned and designated with an “L,” (eg. a 100% that is late receives a 75%). I take late work within a reasonable timeframe.

Absent Work: Students are responsible for all absent & missing work. Absent work will be marked missing “M” until handed in.

Missing assignments Missing work will be graded at 0% until received and will be designated with an “M” in Power School.