

Welcome to AEP Middle School Science!



Hi there! My name is *Mrs. Michelle Blount, M.S.* and I have enjoyed teaching middle school Science at AEP since 2014. I have over 20 years of teaching experience in Texas and Louisiana middle schools. Science is my passion and I really enjoy facilitating student's curiosity as they observe and explain many fascinating natural phenomena. Whether they analyze a video of animal behavior, or conduct an experiment with chemicals, students are wondering “why” and creating scientifically sound explanations. There are few moments that bring more pride than when student efforts pay off with that “aha” moment.

We will cover a variety of interesting topics as students develop their research and science skills. We reinforce skills such as data collection and analysis, scientific inquiry, collaboration, and communication during class. Each year in science, students will continue building upon the previously learned concepts and begin exploring more challenging materials at a deeper level of understanding.

I am the AEP science fair coordinator for my 7th grade students. I prepare students for science fair during May of their 6th grade year. Students choose their topics, research during class, and create project proposals. They conduct their investigations during the summer while they record data and photos. Then, they earn grades for their work during the fall of their 7th grade year. This experience culminates in the annual AEP science fair. It brings me great joy to see their amazing, high-quality work on display for the guest judges.

I am also the AEP sponsor for the Science Olympiad team! We are privileged to be the lab school here at LA Tech. Our AEP Sci Oly team prepares and competes each January at the Science Olympiad Invitational Competition hosted here at LA Tech. Students work as teams to compete in an “academic track meet” covering a variety of science topics. Our AEP team always shows Bullpup pride and earns medals in several categories.

A little more about me...I love fishing, hiking, and outdoor activities. We have 3 sons, (two are currently at RHS), and our youngest is in MS at AEP. My family and I eat gluten-free foods (celiac). My favorite gift ideas include: gift cards (Amazon, Chick-fil-A, Railway Coffee), and fun office supplies. I collect any wildlife/nature sketches, art, or figurines. I also love funny science tee-shirts and my tee-shirt size is adult small.

Students will use Google classroom on a daily basis in science class. Parents, you may check your students' work by having them log into Classroom and click on “View My Work.” All work should have the “Turned In” status, (not red “Missing”). Unsubmitted work will not be graded and work turned in late will follow the MS Late Work Policy. Students are able to keep up with their classwork during any absences and should try to complete their science work if they can. Missed science labs or group investigations will be excused and not required for students to make-up upon their return to school.

Student Planners: All middle school students will receive a planner in August. It is the student's responsibility to copy important information & due dates into their planner. I primarily communicate with parents through email and the Remind app. Please make sure that you provide a valid email address to the school office and use the correct grade level join code for Remind.

REMIND App Codes:

6th Science join @aep6blount

7th Science join @aep7blount

8th Science join @blount8aep

Sci Oly Team join@aepsot (if your child decides to join the team)

Should you need to contact me, please use my AEP email (mblount@aep.latech.edu) and allow 24 hours for a response.

I look forward to working with you and your child this school year.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Michelle Blount, M.S.
AEP MS Science

AEP Science - Mrs. Blount
6th, 7th, 8th Grade Syllabus
mbblount@aep.latech.edu

Students will participate in rigorous science units based on the LSS for their grade levels & performance expectations for each standard. We use the DOE recommended www.openscienced.org curriculum to facilitate mastery of the standards. We will also be using the online Edulastic testing platform to assess student mastery. Science activities in class will vary daily depending on the curriculum and performance expectations.

- **Lessons** – Students will participate in daily class lessons & discussions concerning the current concept in their specific grade level. They are expected to respectfully listen, contribute to discussions, safely participate, stay on-task, and follow directions.
- **Experiments** – Students will collaborate with others in small groups to conduct experiments. Students will practice safety procedures & follow directions or they will be removed from the lab activity.
- **Video Clips** – Students will observe short, relevant clips of science videos to reinforce understanding of specific topics.
- **Quizzes** – Students will take some paper quizzes and digital tests based on the performance expectations of the standards. Each student will log-in through Google Classroom. This will prepare students for state testing.
- **Projects** – Students will participate in individual, partner-based, & group created projects during Science class. Students will have ample class time to research & create their projects before grading.
- **Late Work Policy** – Assignments are due at the BEGINNING of class on the date they are due. See MS Late Work Policy.
- **Grades** – Science grades include, but are not limited to the following: **any classwork**, charts, model sketches, graphic organizers, exit tickets, class participation, lab reports, projects, paper and online quizzes, & homework.
- **Standards** – <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/k-12-science-resources>

MS Science Classroom Expectations

Please read, sign & return.

Students will participate in a variety of daily science procedures that can vary day to day. The following expectations will maximize learning time while allowing students to demonstrate responsibility and excellence in their work.

Entering class I will:

1. Enter the classroom quietly.
2. Keep my phone powered OFF and in my backpack.
3. Place my backpack in the designated area upon entry.
4. Quickly gather necessary supplies (folder, notebook, pencils, pens, colored pencils)
5. Go sit in my assigned seat.
6. Face my teacher while quietly listening for instructions.

During class I will:

1. Be safe by adhering to all school and classroom safety guidelines.
2. Be respectful and kind in actions and words.
3. Be responsible to clean and maintain school property.
4. Listen to and follow all directions.
5. Remain seated until dismissed.
6. Politely participate in class discussions.
7. Raise my hand to ask questions.
8. Follow all safety rules during labs.
9. Keep my computer closed until instructed to open.
10. Stay on task and only go to the assigned websites.
11. Engage in creating original high-quality answers & model sketches.
12. NOT copy another student's work for credit.
13. Turn in my completed, best quality work by the due date.

At Dismissal I will:

1. Clean, organize, and return all science supplies to the designated area.
2. Push in my chair.
3. Double check for my belongings.
4. Leave my area clean and free of trash or messes.
5. Travel quickly and quietly with my group directly to my next class.

I understand each of the expectations for science class and I agree to show Bullpup Pride by following these and setting a positive example for other students. I also understand the MS Interventions & Consequences steps.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____