

**Geared For  
Motivation  
& Success**

GFMS Mission  
Statement:

To work as a community of parents, teachers, students, and other key stakeholders to prepare students for high school by meeting the needs of all students through engaging rigorous instruction with relevant academic and social experiences.

**Every quarter  
I will be sending out a newsletter to keep you up to date on what's going on in my classroom.**

# Welcome Back!

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## Welcome to Mrs. Gruen's Class!

*Welcome to another year at Granite Falls Middle School! I look forward to working with your child this year and look forward to working with you to reach your child's academic needs. Homework will be assigned in our classes as a supplement to class learning. I will have interactive notebooks, projects, quizzes, labs, online assignments and tests. I hope you will ask your child about his or her homework and weekly grades. Please have your child share assignments with you. I utilize Google Classroom to post all assignments, materials and announcements for my classes. As a parent you can receive weekly or daily summaries of what your child is missing. I also input grades into Powerschool each week.*

*Students are expected to be in class no later than 7:50. Students will be marked tardy and have to sign in at the office before coming to class after the 7:50 bell. If your child is absent or is going to be absent, please call the school no later than 9:30 the morning of the absence(s), and let us know why your child isn't in school. Also, remember to send a note to*

*school with your child the day following the absence(s).*

*Please check both the GFMS school website and Facebook page frequently to keep up-to-date on happenings. I will also send out a weekly email with lesson plans and materials to students and parents*

*If you have any questions, please feel free to call either of me at 396-2341 between 10:03-11:26. Or email me at: [agruen@caldwellschools.com](mailto:agruen@caldwellschools.com). I look forward to working with you. Together we will make a wonderful team and have a terrific year.*



## Academic Procedures

I feel that homework, classwork, quizzes and projects should be the majority of a student's grade. However, in order to accurately assess learning, students will take Schoolnet Tests before and after each unit of Science. The following is a breakdown of how grades are calculated:

Science	
Classwork/Homework	40%
Quizzes	20%
Tests/Labs/Projects	20%
Interactive Notebook	20%

As a middle school teacher I understand that there will be occasions where a student may need to turn in a late assignment. I accept late work with no penalty because I believe that learning is the most important objective in my classroom. If your child does not turn in an assignment, you will receive a note home in his/her planner, an email, or a phone call. However, if late assignments become a habit, I will ask to schedule a parent/teacher/student conference to remedy the situation before it gets out of hand. If even after interventions, your child is still struggling to turn in work or meet grade level expectations, we will meet to set up an Academic Success contract.

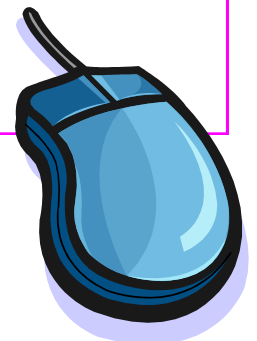
# 8th Grade Science Curriculum at a Glance

Science	
Unit 8.E.2	<a href="#">Earth History</a> 15 days
Unit 8.L.4	<a href="#">Evolution &amp; Genetics</a> 15 days
Unit 8.L.1	<a href="#">Structures and Functions of Living Organisms</a> 22 days
Unit 8.L.2	<a href="#">Biotechnology</a> 8 days
Unit 8.P.2	<a href="#">Energy: Conservation &amp; Transfer</a> 15 days
Unit 8.P.1	<a href="#">Matter: Properties and Change</a> 30 days
Unit 8.E.1	<a href="#">Earth Systems, Structures and Processes</a> 20 days
Unit 8.L.3	<a href="#">Ecosystems</a> 15 days
Unit 8.L.5	<a href="#">Molecular Biology</a> 5 days
For full curriculum guides, please see the following link: <a href="https://www.caldwellschools.com/Page/1200">https://www.caldwellschools.com/Page/1200</a>	

## For More Information...

Please visit my website. Class rules, projects, and objectives will be available to you at all times. I try to update my website monthly, so please visit often. My website is accessible via the school website at <http://gfms.caldwellschools.com>. Follow these simple steps:

1. Click on the **Meet the Staff** link on the left side of the school's homepage.
2. Click on the **Eighth Grade** link on the right side of the page
3. Click on **Amanda Gruen**.



# Classroom Rules

1. Do not talk while others are talking.
2. Respect all other students' opinions. Always be a good listener.
3. Take responsibility for your actions.
4. BE HONEST!!!
5. Follow all classroom procedures!
6. Smile at least once during every class!
7. This is a GOSSIP/DRAMA FREE ZONE!

## PBIS Schoolwide Expectations

	Classrooms	Hallway/ Arrival	Restrooms	Bus	Cafeteria
<b>Be KIND</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To everyone</li> <li>• At all times</li> <li>• In all places</li> </ul>	Use good manners when speaking to adults and peers	Use good manners when speaking to adults and peers	Give others privacy  Flush then wash your hands	Use good manners when speaking to adults and peers	Use good manners when speaking to adults and peers
<b>Be RESPECTFUL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of ourselves</li> <li>• Of others</li> <li>• Of property</li> <li>• Of time</li> </ul>	Be prepared  Follow teacher's directions  Keep hands and feet to yourself	Keep hands and feet to yourself  Walk quietly on the right  Abide by dress code	Use facilities quickly  Keep facilities damage free	Sit quietly and stay in your assigned seat  Keep your hands and feet in your own seat  Keep seats and floor clean	Enter and exit quietly and orderly  Keep your place in line and wait your turn patiently
<b>Be WILLING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To try</li> <li>• To try something new</li> <li>• To try harder</li> <li>• To try again</li> </ul>	Be on time  Be an active learner	Keep halls clean  Report directly to destination	Leave it cleaner than you found it	Follow driver's instructions	Clean up behind yourself and others

For more information about PBIS at GFMS, please see the student handbook.

  
**Mrs. Gruen**

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Visit my homepage at  
[http://  
gfms.caldwellschools.com](http://gfms.caldwellschools.com)

## Supply List

- Notebook with pockets (100 pages)
- Pencils
- Highlighters
- Colored Pencils
- 4 Glue Sticks
- 2 Boxes of Tissue
- Red and blue pens

### OPTIONAL

- Ruler

## Wish List

Every year I buy several products for our classroom, but inevitably need more by November. This year I am asking that if possible parents donate an item on my class wish list. This is strictly donation, not required. All help is greatly appreciated.

- Hand Sanitizer
- Clorox Wipes
- Any extra items from supply list (especially Kleenex)

## My Vision Statement

I believe all students can reach their full potential if they are intellectually challenged in a nurturing and caring environment both at home and at school. I believe that parents and teachers are the key components that lead to the success of our children.