

Dear Students,

Welcome to 8th grade science! I am so excited to begin this school year and explore in science class together. I look forward to getting to know each of you as we grow and learn this year. It is my hope that we can work together to learn, accept new challenges, grow, and have fun this year.

I grew up in Dayton, Ohio and attended Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA where I grew in my love for science and graduated with a degree in Biology. During my time at Duquesne, I spent four years on their varsity rowing team and am thankful for the opportunity I had to continue to grow as an athlete and a team-mate. After graduating from Duquesne, I worked full-time at a garden store/plant nursery. This opportunity helped to show me my love for gardening and plants. I loved my work there but knew I was called to be a teacher. I spent the last two years studying at the University of Findlay, learning how to become a teacher. I am very excited to begin my career at Van Buren. Some of my favorite things include spending time outside, reading, and trying new recipes. I love to ask questions and learn new things. I hope you will join me in developing that love this year.

While in class, I expect you to show respect at all times. You will show respect for yourself and for me by coming to class prepared and ready to learn. This means you **will have your pencils, assignment notebook, charged chromebook, and science binder with you everyday in my classroom.** I hope you grow this year to have a great respect for learning and appropriate questioning/curiosity. In order to do this, you will limit distracting behaviors during class. Being disruptive in class will show negatively in your work habits and will earn you a detention if it is a consistent problem. Scientists often have questions or disagreements, I expect this to occur in our class, but I also expect you to ask questions respectfully, at appropriate times and word disagreements in a way that leads to a productive discussion without anyone being hurt.

Please **check Moodle often.** Every week there will be a preview of our class work as well as any homework. Because this information is posted on Moodle as well as on the board by my desk you will be held accountable for knowing what we are doing. If you are ever absent, please check Moodle before coming back to school so that you can be educated about what you have missed and jump right back in.

This is my first year teaching in my own classroom. It is my goal to always give clear directions and set fair expectations. **If you ever have questions or are unsure about what I am asking of you, please, please ask!** We have a lot of learning and growing to do together. I hope you are excited to expand your scientific knowledge, ability to think critically, and to question! I am excited about all that you will teach me and how we can learn and grow together.

Let's have a great year!

Sincerely,

Ms. O'Brien
mobrien@vbschools.net