



Lansing Central School District

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Lansing Middle School Science department would like to clarify acceleration in science to the Earth Science program in 8th grade and the criteria for placement in the program. The 8th Grade Earth Science program combines both the Regents Earth Science curriculum and the 8th grade Physical Science curriculum. It is a rigorous and challenging course for middle school students.

Since this course combines two curricula, students must have a strong interest in science, be very motivated, and willing to put in extra time and effort to succeed. In addition, students must be fluent in mathematics at an advanced level. Furthermore, successful students will need to have excellent literacy skills in order to handle the demanding and fast paced content of Earth Science.

Students accelerate in science because they seek the increased challenge of advanced material and faster pace of learning. This is a high school course. As such, students need the maturity to accept increased academic expectations and homework. This requires genuine interest, excitement, and motivation to work very hard. Benefits of acceleration include the opportunity to earn 5 high school credits in the field of science, increasing the opportunity to take more courses like AP Biology, Dual Credit Physics, Astronomy, and Project Lead the Way courses.

To be recommended for Earth Science in 8th grade, students must meet the following criteria:

- Student must have a 95% average for Quarters 1-3 in Science 7.
- Student must complete 7th Grade Advanced Math.
- Student must have a recommendation from the Grade 7 Team

Team recommendation is based on grades, homework completion, quality of work, behavior, and scores on state assessments of at least a Level 3.

While taking the course, students must maintain a quarterly average of 90% and an attendance rate of at least 85%. The 8th grade Earth Science course is a high school course for credit that will be included in the student's high school transcript.

Because of limits to our facilities, we place a maximum of 22 students a year in 8th grade Earth Science. In the 30 week report card, you will receive a form on which to let us know if your child is interested in being considered for Earth Science. Then, students who are recommended for Earth Science in 8th grade will be notified in writing in the final report card at the end of 7th grade.

Sincerely,

Christine Rebera
Principal

Christa Salmon
7th Grade Science

Ann Bronson
8th Grade/Earth Science