**Hephzibah Middle School**

 **STEM Design and Innovation Syllabus 2025-2026**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

My name is Elaine Ward, and I will be teaching the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade STEM this year. I have been teaching for 24 years now and am a very proud mother of a 22-year-old son, Thomas, who is in college for a degree in mathematics. During The last 23 years I have taught math and science and STEM in grades 6-8 as well as math in 4th grade, High School CTAE, and adult education. This will be my second year back at HMS, and I am excited to start this year with the fantastic opportunity of teaching my favorite subject to the amazing middle school students. I believe that teachers need to work closely with parents and students to provide a positive atmosphere of communication and consistency. I will work diligently to educate your child so that this year here at HMS will be a time of growth and success. I am confident that we are going to have a productive and successful school year. I thank you in advance for your support, and I look forward to a terrific year here at HMS!

Sincerely,

E.Ward

Email: wardel@BOE.Richmond.k12.ga.us

**6th Grade Remind:** Text the message **@Ward2036** to the number **81010**.

**7th Grade Remind:** Text the message **@Ward2037** to the number **81010**.

**8th Grade Remind:** Text the message **@Ward2038** to the number **81010**.

**Course Description**

* STEM is a class that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics to guide inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking.
* Successful students will make thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and be creative.
* You will work toward being innovators, educators, leaders, and learners of the 21st century!
* Lab experiences are important to reinforce classroom work and problem solving through scientific process.
* SAFETY is very important when working with equipment.
* Our focus in each project will be the Engineering Design Process which will help the students enhance their creativity, problem-solving skills, collaboration with others, and their communication skills.
* All projects will be done in class.

**Supplies Needed for Science:**

Pencils Blue or Black Pens Colored Pencils Notebook/Folder

Kleenex, paper towels, and hand sanitizer would also be greatly appreciated. ☺

\*\*\*We will do many labs and projects throughout the year. Wish lists for materials will be sent out with at least 2 weeks’ notice when and if extra items are needed. \*\*\*

**Grade Distribution:**

Major Assessments (Tests and Projects): 40%

Minor Assessments (Labs, Quizzes and Classwork) 60%

**\*\*Parents, you are encouraged to log-in to the Parent Portal of Infinite Campus to check your child’s ongoing**

 **progress in each class.\*\***

**Classroom Expectations**

1. Be on time and be prepared. (Seated quietly with all materials working on the warm-up when the bell rings.)
2. Be respectful of yourself, the teacher, school staff, and others.
3. Conduct yourself in a manner that is safe, considerate, and responsible.
4. Respect the property of others. (If it’s not yours, LEAVE IT ALONE!)
5. No food, candy, or gum in the classroom.
6. NO CELL PHONES

Failure to follow class rules may result in the following consequences: warning, parent notification, time-out with another teacher, loss of privileges, or an office referral.

**Reassess & Relearn**

After any major assessment, students will have the opportunity to submit a relearning plan for parent and teacher approval. Upon satisfactory completion of the plan, as determined by Ms. Ward, students will be given a minimum of two opportunities to be reassessed. Students scoring below 70 on a major assessment will be expected to complete a relearning plan unless exempted with parent approval.

**Attendance and Late Work Policy**

Students are expected to read and adhere to the guidelines for absence(s), tardiness and early dismissal as outlined in the Richmond County Board of Education Code of Student Conduct and Discipline Handbook. Students are responsible for communicating with the teacher to receive missed work and notes.

✏Parent/guardians, please use Remind to send me a text message indicating you have seen this Earth Science syllabus. (Be sure to include your child’s name.)