

Curriculum Night

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About Mr. Nickels

➤ Mr. Nickels

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About Mr. Nickels

- I first graduated from Illinois State University in 2004 with a degree in Politics and Government.
- I graduated from ISU again in 2010 with a degree in Middle Level Education.
- I finished my Master's degree in Science Education at Western Governors University in 2013.
- I have taken numerous doctoral level classes at the University of Florida.

About Mr. Nickels

- I am certified to teach Elementary School, Middle School Science, Middle School Social Studies, Middle School Language Arts, Middle School Math, High School Social Studies, High School Physics, High School Chemistry, Business/Marketing/Management, and Latin.

About Mr. Nickels

- I taught for two years at Cornell Grade School.
- The first year I taught self-contained fifth grade (meaning I taught all subjects: math, science, social studies, reading, writing, and spelling).
- The next year I taught junior high science and computers.

About Mr. Nickels

- I taught for three years at Seneca Grade School as a seventh and eighth grade integrated science teacher.
- This is my third year at Galileo; I have taught middle school science, programming, robotics, STEM, and K-2 robotics here.

Physical Science and Earth/Space Science

- Our class centers around hands-on activities (Experiments, investigations, working with models, etc.).
- We take notes as background information and as activity discussion.
- Though we have an online textbook (www.ck12.org), this is a secondary resource and does not form the basis of our curriculum.
- Students make their own “textbook” out of notes and activity sheets.

Physical Science and Earth/Space Science

- As your student is in either Advanced Physical Science or Advanced Earth/Space science, we go faster, farther, and deeper than a traditional middle school science class.
- Attendance is extremely important.
- Active participation is extremely important.
- Studying is extremely important.

Physical Science and Earth/Space Science

- I do offer extra credit but extra credit is only offered after a test and the student must show me a completed study guide.
- There will be one major project first semester (most likely making a magazine) and one major project second semester (STEAM Expo).
- Projects are to be done at home.

Physical Science and Earth/Space Science

- It will be rare when your child has homework.
- If, however, your child does not finish an in-class assignment, your child will need to finish that at home.

Robotics

➤ Robotics class centers around learning how to code by first completing puzzles and then by programming Dash and Dot to perform specific tasks (e.g., follow a track, do the wave, dance with another robot, etc.)

Robotics

- Second year robotics students will learn how to program LEGO Mindstorms EV3 robots.
- As I have a mix of Robotics 1 and Robotics 2 students in my class you may see your child excused from an assignment in Skyward because that assignment applies to different students.

Skyward

- I use Skyward to communicate information about grades.
- I will not necessarily e-mail you when your child is missing an assignment.
- Any assignment that is missing and/or late will be marked as such in Skyward.
- If necessary, I also leave notes in Skyward.
- I update Skyward regularly, not on a specific day of the week.

Classroom Management

- I have high expectations for my students.
- I expect my students:
 - To follow all rules and procedures at all times.
 - To do their best work possible at all times.
 - To be on their best behavior at all times.

Classroom Management

- If students cannot handle using classroom equipment (e.g., science lab equipment, robots) then they will be given alternative assignments.
- If students do not follow rules and procedures, or if students do not complete assignments, they may be required to serve a lunch detention in my room.
- Students will be excused from lunch detentions once they have written an acceptable reflection essay or when they have finished their assignments.