

8th Grade Science

Mrs. Williams

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Course Description

- Physical, Earth and Life Science

In this class, we will cover the following Physical Science subcategories:

- Trimester: Force and Motion
- Trimester Two: Waves
- Trimester Three: Planetary Sciences

Core Tasks

- To read, study, research and conduct experiments
- To learn to utilize and understand the scientific method
- To apply scientific concepts to their own practical world

Materials (*bring these to class every day*)

- Notebook
- Blue or black pen and pencil
- Highlighter (pink, blue, yellow and green)
- Colored pencils
- Laptop

Class Procedures

- Class activities will include guided lecture, discussions, small group investigation and presentations, drawing, other hands-on activities including lab experiences.
- Most class activities or discussions will be accompanied by notes. Each evening, you should read over your notes from your notebook to help ensure you are organized and review what you learned.
- Labs will often be inquiry-driven investigations and include either a formal lab report or discussion questions that are graded for content and quality.
- Tests, quizzes and alternative assessments will be used to evaluate your understanding of the material.

Occasionally, content knowledge and understanding of concepts will be assessed using alternative methods, such as lab practicals, reports or projects.

Assessment

- Grades are the direct result of your effort and participation both in and out of class.

A = 94 - 100 A- = 90 - 93	consistent work, high quiz & test scores, excellent labs, superior content knowledge and explanation of concepts
B+ = 87 - 89 B = 83 - 86 B- = 80 - 82	consistent work, above average quiz & tests scores, good labs, good content knowledge and explanation of concepts
C+ = 77 - 79 C = 73 - 76 C- = 70 - 72	inconsistent work, average or below average quiz & tests scores, incomplete labs, limited content knowledge and explanation of concepts
D+ = 67 - 69 D = 63 - 66 D- = 60 - 62	missing work, low quiz & test scores, deficient labs, content knowledge and explanation of concepts lacking
F = 0 - 59	missing work, very low quiz & test scores, missing and deficient labs, poor content knowledge and explanation of concepts

Within each of the following categories, assignments are graded by points and letter grades.

Summative 90%	Quizzes
	Unit tests & final exam
	Authentic assessments (<i>lab practicals, formal lab reports, other alternative assessments</i>)
Formative 10%	Organization, Preparation, Practice (<i>interactive notebooks, in-class assignments, homework</i>)

Late & Makeup Work Policy

- Late work is defined as any assignment not turned in at the requested time. If you arrive to class late it is your responsibility to remember to turn in work that is due. You are responsible for knowing when and where to turn in class assignments. You get **one free tech excuse** and after that you are responsible for any tech mishaps including emails sent to the wrong address or googledocs improperly shared. (some leeway here as we all become familiar with the new tech)
- Makeup work is defined as any assignment turned in after the due date following an **excused** absence. It is your responsibility to see me after an absence for any handouts or labs you may have missed. **The following are specific policies for various grade categories.**

Makeup work

- Absent? Check in with a friend and on our 8th grade website for what was done in class and for any homework that was assigned.
 - You will have the same amount of time you were absent to make up all missed work. (Example: you were absent two days you have two days to make up your work.)
 - If you know you will miss a class or are leaving school early, put assignments in my mailbox before you leave.
- In-class assignments: See me after an absence for handouts.
- Tests: Missed tests must be made up within 3 days. You must make up all tests. Failure to make up tests will result in a failed grade and contact with parents and administration.
- Labs: see me immediately after an absence to arrange a makeup lab. In case a lab is impossible to make up, alternate assignment must be completed.

Class Rules

1) When entering the classroom check the board for directions and sit in your assigned seat. Be ready to learn every day. Use only the outside doors to enter and exit. Bring all necessary materials EVERY DAY.

2) I ONLY GRADE **DARK INK OR PENCIL**. I may ask you to rewrite something if I can't read it comfortably. Please include full name, class and date on all papers or emails/docs submitted for grading.

3) All school rules must be followed in class. It is especially important that you NOT EAT OR DRINK in class. Food is never allowed unless it is part

of an activity and provided by the teacher. If you have food that cannot be put inside your bag, you will be asked to put it IN THE TRASH or on one of the tables up front. If you are caught EATING, you will be asked to put food in the trash. Please do not continue eating on the way to the trash can.

4) Vandalism is not tolerated. The consequence for defacing desks in the classroom is cleaning ALL the tables.

5) Your undivided attention is required for success. Any reading or writing or other materials not directly related to class will be removed from your desk and may or may not be returned to you. I will be monitoring your device usage to make sure you stay on task. If you are found off task repeatedly, I will discuss this with your parents and administration and you will be written up in your Scholar Folder.

6) You are encouraged to work collaboratively in and out of class but **ALL WRITTEN WORK MUST BE IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Good participation and success in following these rules will result in learning and enjoyable classes.