

8th Grade Science – Life Science Syllabus

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Course Description: In this course students should gain a basic understanding of life science including: cells, genetics, body systems, ecosystems, and evolution. This course will have many hands-on learning opportunities for students as we learn how the world around us works.

Course Objectives: Upon completing this course, students will have had the opportunity to gain knowledge, skills, and understanding concerning biology and the diversity of living things.

Grading: Points will be assigned to each assignment, laboratory, project, and test. Grades will be based on the percentage of points earned out of points possible. Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

Percentage (%)	Grade
96-100	A
90-95	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
59 and below	F

Students will be able to retake **most** tests and quizzes **within a week** of the test/quiz being returned to the student. Retakes must be completed after school. Students will have to show that they have worked for improvement in mastering the concept.

Late assignments will not be accepted without an excused absence. Students will be given one day to make up late work for each day that is missed. For example, if two days of class are missed all work is due two days after the student returns. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain assignments prior to absence for a school activity or other planned event. Extra credit may be offered at the discretion of the teacher in small amounts.

Please ask for extra help when you need it. I will be available before and after school for assistance (7:55-3:30). I am also happy to come in earlier or stay later if you let me know beforehand.

Classroom Rules:

1. Be respectful to yourself and others.
2. Be respectful of school property and supplies.
3. Supplies are not to be touched until given permission by the teacher.
4. Be on time and prepared for class.
5. Follow the directions of the teacher the first time they are given.

Rules from the student handbook will also be followed. In addition, several laboratory safety rules will apply. Laboratory safety will be discussed and students will sign a lab safety contract and pass a lab safety quiz (100%) before conducting experiments.

Other Items of Interest:

1. Please take care of personal errands **BEFORE** class begins (restroom, locker, office, drink, etc.) Also, be in your seat ready to work when the bell rings. We will start every day with a bell ringer (a question and/or task of the day).
2. Only bottled water is allowed in the science room. No food, drink, gum, or candy.
3. Remain in your seats when the bell rings until I dismiss the class
4. If I cannot read your work, it will not be graded
5. Many activities/labs involve working in groups and cannot be done individually. Class participation, cooperativeness, and having a positive attitude will help you in succeeding this year in science class. Be involved and have an awesome year!
6. You will need to have your science notebook (composition notebook) for class **every day**. If lost, it will need to be recreated.

Communications:

With students: The teacher will visit with students personally regarding positive accomplishments or areas of concern.

With parents: The teacher will primarily send e-mails to parents to report on positive accomplishments and areas of concern. Phone calls, letters, and meetings with parents may be necessary depending on the situation(s) being addressed.

Please feel free to contact me by phone during my plan hour (9:23-10:13 AM) or anytime by e-mail I/We have read and understand the information outlined in the syllabus.

Student Name _____

Student Signature_____ Date_____

Parent Signature_____ Date_____

I look forward to a great year!