

8th Grade Physical Science Syllabus

1st Semester

Instructor: Ms. Anderson
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School Phone: 770-288-2108
Conference Hours: by appointment

Objective

The 8th grade science curriculum uses Physical Science topics as its focus for students to learn the process skills, content, and concepts that have been identified as essential for middle school. Each student will participate in hands on experiments and projects, as well as have opportunities for group and individual discovery activities. This exploratory learning method will be combined with the integration of technology, math, real world applications, and writing; and will provide a solid foundation for high school.

Science Process Skills

Each student will develop the following process skills identified by the Georgia Performance Standards as essential for the 8th grade science student.

Observing	Predicting	Inferring
Communicating	Classifying	Investigating
Measuring	Making Models	Defining Operationally

Emphasis

Major emphasis will be placed on Analysis, Problem Solving, Reasoning, Developing Hypotheses, and Conceptual Understanding.

Content and Concepts for the 1st Semester

Fundamental Science Skills (on-going)

- Laboratory Safety
- Inquiry
- Steps in designing a valid scientific investigation (scientific method)
- Measurement (SI metric system, temperature, and time)
- Reference Skills

Properties of Matter

- Properties of Matter
- Phases of Matter
- Structure of Matter
- Forms of Matter
- Formation of Compounds

Ola Middle School Grading Scale

20% - Formative	daily work, independent work, practice, notebook checks, daily writing, labs
25% - Quizzes	weekly quizzes, mini-projects, journals
40% - Summative	major tests, major writing assignments, performance tasks, major projects, research papers
15% - Final Exam	end of semester exam