

8th Grade Comprehensive Science Syllabus

Teacher: Janis A. Smith

Room: 332

Email: jasmith@pasco.k12.fl.us

Phone Number: (813) 346-1200

Text: Pearson Elevate Science Course 3

Course Overview

Standards taught in this course are the NGSSS for Science, which emphasize increased opportunities for laboratory investigations that include the use of scientific inquiry, research, measurement, problem solving, laboratory apparatus and technologies, experimental procedures, and safety procedures that are integrated throughout this course.

Topics to be covered include the Practice of Science and Scientific Knowledge with a focus on Scientific Theories, Laws, and Models. Our study of the properties of matter will focus on the Scientific Theory of Atoms, the Periodic Table of Elements, compounds, weight, mass, density, physical properties, changes in matter, and energy transformations such as photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Second semester will focus on our Earth in space and time and the impact of Science on political, social, and economic issues.

The Board recognizes that a course of study or certain instructional materials may contain content and/or activities that some parents find objectionable. If after careful, personal review of the program lessons and/or materials, a parent indicates to the school that either the content or the activity conflicts with his religious beliefs or value system, the school will consider a written request for his child to be excused from a particular class for specified reasons. The student, however, will not be excused from participating in the course and will be provided alternate learning activities during times of such parent requested absences.

Requirements

Students are expected to come to class prepared each day with required supplies and a readiness to learn. Participation in classroom assignments and activities is essential for success. Parents are encouraged to ask their child to share his/her science notebook on a regular basis as this will be a good indicator of what is currently being studied in class. Science Safety Rules must be followed for all investigations. **Any student who is not following laboratory safety procedures will not be able to participate in the investigation which will directly affect his/her grade.**

Daily Supplies

The following supplies will be needed in class daily. Supplies should be replenished throughout the school year as needed.

Science Notebook
Pencils/Pens

Colored Pencils or Crayons
Glue Stick

Grading Policy

Each assignment is assigned a point value. A student's grade is determined by total points earned. Students are expected to turn in assignments completed and on time. Partial credit will be given for late assignments as follows. An assignment will be worth 20% less for each day late up to two days. Any assignment more than two days late will not be counted, and the student will receive a zero for that assignment.

District Grading Scale

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

Interactive Science Notebook

Students in this course will be using an interactive notebook as a tool to increase student thinking and achievement, and also as a means to track, reflect, communicate, and assess assignments. Notebooks will be a record of the work done throughout the year. Students will be using their notebooks daily, and are required to keep them neat and organized.

Homework

Homework will be assigned on a regular basis and is due at the beginning of the next class period or specified due date.

Attendance

Many activities in a science classroom are difficult to make up, especially those that involve lab work. Regular attendance is the best way to ensure that your child will be successful in my class. If a student is absent due to illness or quarantine, it is his/her responsibility to access my canvas course which can be found in **My Learning**. Assignments and curriculum support will be available there. Students will be given two days for each day absent to make up work missed with no late penalty. Late penalties will begin on the third day back to class.