

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science – Life Science Syllabus

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### Welcome to life science!

**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

**Quizzes and Tests:** Students will be able to retake most tests and quizzes **within a week** of the student receiving their score. Retakes must be completed before/after school and will receive a maximum score of 70%.

**Late Work:** Late assignments will earn half credit. **Late work will not be accepted once the answers have been shared with students.** If time is used wisely, students will typically be provided with enough time to finish assignments during class. Their daily homework will include studying for quizzes and tests, and part of the chapter review. Please ask your student to show you the weekly agenda on Google Classroom to see what is due the next day.

**Absences:** Our daily agenda is added to a weekly post on Google Classroom. This is the first place students should look to see what they missed. **It is the student's responsibility to see me before or after school to ask questions and/or collect papers.** In the case of an absence, the handbook policy will be followed. Students will be given **two days** to make up late work for each day that is missed. It is the

responsibility of the student to obtain assignments prior to absence for a school activity or other planned event.

**Please ask for extra help when you need it!** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday are study halls during Pride Time; students are free to go to different teachers for help. I am also available before and after school for assistance (7:45-3:30). I am happy to come in earlier or stay later if you let me know beforehand. I want you to succeed and am here to help you.

#### **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.) 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 your charged Chromebook, science binder, and writing utensil for class **every day**. If your science binder is 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 (2:30-3:15 PM) or anytime by e-mail

**I look forward to a great year!**

I/We have read and understand the information outlined in the syllabus.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Parent e-mail\_\_\_\_\_

Parent phone\_\_\_\_\_

Supplies needed for Science Class:

- 1 inch binder (you may use your science binder from last year if it is still in decent condition)
- loose leaf paper OR 5 subject notebook. (Notebook may NOT be used for any other class.)
- colored pencils
- pencils and pens
- optional: ear buds or headphones

**I look forward to a great year!**