

# 8th Grade Science Syllabus

Mrs. Laura James

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Welcome to 8th grade science! I'm looking forward to an awesome year. The overall goals for this class are to work on the application of the scientific method and to learn how to effectively communicate in science. There will be an emphasis on writing and presentation skills in science.

**Course of Study:** (Subject to change)

## *Unit 0: Introduction To 8th Grade Science*

What do you need to know to be successful in 8th Grade Science? This is a short and sweet review of lab safety, the metric system, and the scientific method.

## *Unit 1: Chemistry*

What is matter? I don't know what's the matter with you? (I know, bad joke.) To truly understand what matter is we will be studying the physical and chemical properties of matter.

## *Unit 2: Physics*

What makes everything work? Let's find out by studying the basic physics concepts of motion, forces, and energy. At the end of this unit, students will be building fully functioning model roller coasters.

## *Unit 3: Waves*

What makes it so that we can see and hear, and what does that have to do with ocean waves (or stadium waves for the sports fans)? It's all about energy and how it moves. At the end of this unit, the students will be expected to construct and perform a lab and to write a full lab report.

## *Unit 4: Solar System*

What is our place in the solar system and why do we care? Let's figure it out. At the end of this unit, students will be conducting and presenting a research project.

## *Unit 5: Climate and Weather*

Why does Colorado have bipolar weather? To understand this, we will study winds, clouds, heat transfer, pressure, and all other things weather. To end this unit, students will choose a severe weather scenario to research and present.

### **Classroom Expectations:**

1. Be respectful
2. Come to class prepared with all the proper supplies.
3. Be in your seat working on the warm up when class begins.
4. Cell phones will not be allowed in the classroom. If parents need to contact their student, they may contact the office. If a student needs to contact their parent, they may go to the office to call.
5. Students are encouraged to have water, but no other drinks will be allowed.
6. Students will be allowed to have a light snack during warm up time (first 5 minutes of class.) Any food or trash left on tables or floors will lead to this privilege being revoked for the rest of the school year.
7. Gum will be allowed as long as I don't see or hear it. Any gum found anywhere in the room will lead to the loss of this privilege.
8. No perfume, cologne, or any other aerosols as many people are highly sensitive to these smells.
9. During laboratories, no misbehavior of any kind will be tolerated. Failure to follow all laboratory guidelines, as outlined by the teacher, will result in immediate removal from the laboratory, a score of zero on the lab, and a parent email.

### **Classroom Procedures:**

1. Come into the classroom, take your seat, and begin on your warm up.
  - a. Students not seated and working when class begins will be marked tardy
2. If you need to leave the classroom, ask Mrs. James to sign your planner, and take the pass. No passes in the first 15 minutes of class (school policy.)
3. Mrs. James will dismiss class when everything is put away and everyone is seated.

### **Computers:**

1. Each student will be assigned a computer in my classroom. They are fully responsible for these computers.

### **Absences:**

1. Students will have 1 day for every day that they were excused absent to make up assignments.

2. If students are absent, they need to check my website, under the student resources tab <https://www.elizabethschooldistrict.org/Page/1764>. This will be updated daily with everything we did in class that day.

### **Discipline Policy:**

Minor Violations: Behaviors that will be dealt with using this discipline policy: tardy to class, failure to have classroom materials, disruptive behavior that hinders learning for him/herself or other students, failure to adhere to classroom expectations or procedures, use of profanity, disrespectful behavior, disruptive hallway behavior, disrespect for classroom, student, teacher or school property, not adhering to school dress code, failure to engage in classroom activities and assignments.

Major Violations: Those behaviors are outlined in the student handbook and will be dealt with through administrative action immediately

- 1<sup>ST</sup> Incident – verbal warning - will begin an office referral form
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Incident – stay after class to conference with teacher – will add to the office referral form
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Incident – parent contact and lunch detention – will submit the office referral form to administration
- 4<sup>th</sup> Incident - Administrative action

### **Supplies:**

1. Three-ring binder (1 ½ inch) with 5 dividers
2. Loose leaf notebook paper for binder
3. Pens and pencils
4. Ruler
5. Calculator (share with math)

### **Grading:**

Assignments will be weighted as follows:

Summative Assessments	40%
Labs and Quizzes	30%
Homework and Classwork	20%
Participation	10%

The 8th grade homework policy will be sent home separately for a parent signature.

## Syllabus Signature Page

Please sign and return this page to acknowledge you have read the syllabus.

Parent Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

This signature page is due back to Mrs. James by Friday, August 23rd for a grade.  
Place the other pages of your syllabus in your binder.