

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.

Important Notice: This is a Lab Based Class!

The number of group labs will be reduced this year, but they will still be an integral part of the class. When doing group labs, the amount of time the students will be directly working together will be limited to what is necessary to complete the lab. The students will be required to wear masks, and distancing guidelines will be followed as much as possible. I can also provide gloves if needed. If you prefer for your child to not participate in the group labs, you can choose for them to complete alternative assignments instead. Please fill out and sign the form at the end of this document.

Course of Study: (Subject to change)

Unit 1: 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 2: 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 basics of atoms, molecules, states of matter, and the physical and chemical properties of matter.

Unit 3: 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 4: 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 doing a project demonstrating the role of waves in current technology.

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 phone use will not be allowed. Cell phones must stay in the student backpacks at all times. If a parent needs to contact their student, or if a student needs to contact their parent, they may use the office phone.
5. Students are encouraged to have water, but no other drinks will be allowed.
6. No food will be allowed in the classroom.
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.
10. Masks and social distancing are currently required in the classroom.

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 for a pass. You must bring the pass back with you to class.
3. Mrs. James will dismiss class when everything is cleaned up and put away and everyone is seated.

Computers:

1. Each student will be assigned a school computer which they are responsible for. We will be using them daily.

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 their Google Classroom. 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

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

Lab Participation

Parents, please select an option below:

_____ I give my permission for my student to participate in all group lab work following the stated guidelines as closely as possible

_____ I would like to be contacted before each lab so I can make the decision based on the lab (Please make sure to provide your contact information)

_____ I prefer that my student not participate in group lab work and be given alternate assignments instead

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

I will not allow any students to participate in group lab work until I have this signed form. If you change your mind any time during the year, please let me know by email. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

This signature page is due back to Mrs. James by Friday, August 28th.