**Stay Connected**

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Team Blog: <http://umsjedi.weebly.com/>

**Course Description**

Eighth grade science is a general science course covering the disciplines of Life, Earth, and Physical science. The course emphasizes a basic knowledge of science concepts and process skills through experimentation and activity-oriented lessons. **Evidence-based** claims and reasoning will be essential for success within this course.

**Goals**

Students will understand the interconnectedness of systems: human activity affects and is affected by the natural world. Students will develop those skills as they think, read and write as scientists in their Science Journals.

**Units of Study:**

* Lab Safety
* Ecosystem Dynamics
* Adaptation and Natural Selection
* Kinetic and Potential Energy
* Weather and Global Climate Change

**Materials and Resources**

The following texts are used in-class and are not issued directly to students:

* Physical Science published by Holt
* Science Explorer series published by Prentice Hall
* Environmental Science published by Prentice Hall
* Science World Magazine

Students should bring their book and the following to class **every day:**

* Student planner. The student must have their planner to use one of the emergency passes.
* Spiral notebook for note taking.
* Blue or black ink pen, highlighter, or pencil.
* Science Journals (Stay in classroom)

**Assessment of Student Learning**

Students will be assessed based on their achievement of the course’s content in relation to the course goals. Student evaluation will include performance on tests, quizzes, projects, homework and science journaling and lab write-ups.

**Grading Scale**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Letter Range** | **Percentage Range** | **Descriptor** |
| **A** | **90% - 100%** | **Exceeds Expectations and assessed content standards.** |
| **B** | **80% - 89%** | **Meets most or all assessed standards and expectations.** |
| **C** | **70% - 79%** | **Approaches assess standards and expectations.** |
| **D** | **60% - 69%** | **Below assessed standards and expectations.** |
| **F** | **0% - 59%** | **Significantly below assessed standards and expectations.** |
| **NG** | **0** | **Work not Submitted** |

\*Grades will be weighted accordingly:

* 60% Assessments – Includes Labs & Quarter Projects
* 40% Daily Classwork and Homework

**Quarter Projects**

Every quarter students will be required to complete an out-of-class independent research and design project. Grades for these projects are based on performance of the project during in-class testing. You will receive specific information at the start of each quarter.

**Science Readings**

Students are required to enrich and expand their knowledge of science by reading from a source other than their textbook. These readings are considered out-of-class assignments. A total of three readings are required per quarter. Students may specialize or read on a number of different topics. A minimum one page summary of information learned will be turned in three times each quarter. To receive credit each summary must include bibliographic information. For more information, see the science reading guidelines.

**Assignment Completion**

Work is expected to be completed by the assigned due date. I expect all work that is not completed to be handed in late. Work will be accepted late at a 10% penalty every day it is not turned in.

**Make Up Work**

If a student is absent from school for any reason, the student is given one full school day to make up work that was assigned or given on the day of the absence. For an unexcused absence or an absence due to a suspension the student must have all work completed upon return to school. For major grades, most due dates for labs and projects are given weeks in advance and should not require make up time unless there is an extended absence or illness.

If a student misses days in class, it is up to the students to schedule a time with Mr. Boehmke either before school or during lunch to gain a refresher on content that was missed.

**Class Behavior Expectations**

This class follows the school-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports also known as the Tiger Roar. A student is expected to:

* Be responsible. Arrive on time. Bring all necessary materials to class. Follow class procedures.
* Be respectful. Speak respectfully to others. Listen while others are talking.
* Be safe. Keep classroom clean. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
* Participate and contribute positively to the class. Ask questions if you are confused.

**Lab Safety**

The most important element of a science class is creating a safe environment. Therefore, safety rules and procedures must be followed at all times. Any violation of safety rules may result in the loss of laboratory privileges. Safety rules and procedures will be outlined in class.

**Class Rules**

Students should comply with all school rules and policies as stated in the student handbook. Additional rules are listed in class contract, which should be returned to me by **Friday, August 25th.** Possible consequences for violating class contract include:

* Verbal Warning.
* Seat Change.
* Student-Teacher Conference
* Parent-Teacher Conference
* Teacher Assigned Lunch Detention
* Teacher Assigned AM or PM Detention
* Office Referral

*“Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge.” –* Carl Sagan