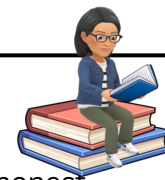


8th Grade Science Syllabus

Teacher Info!	Google Classroom 		
Teacher: April Vann Email: AVann@jsdtracy.com Office Hours: Tuesday @ Lunch	Period 1 code : 6y223vrn	Period 3 code : tqmfasw2	Period 4 code : ixonyus5
<u>Course Description:</u> This year in science, we will be using STEMScopes, a hands-on, NGSS-aligned curriculum that integrates Earth, Life, and Physical sciences. Instead of relying on textbooks, students will explore concepts through engaging activities and labs. In addition, students will build a science portfolio—a curated collection of their work that reflects their learning and growth over time. Portfolios encourage student choice, self-reflection, and peer feedback, helping students assess their strengths and set goals for improvement. Each piece included will be selected by the student for a specific reason, making the portfolio a meaningful, personalized record of their scientific development.			



Textbook and Apps we will use:

- 8th Grade STEMScopes 
- Apps: STEMScopes <https://stemscopes.com>
- Apps: Google classroom, docs, slides, sheets

Class Materials:

- Charged Chromebook
- Composition/ college ruled Notebook
- Writing materials (Pencil, Blue or Black ink Pens)
- Highlighters/Sticky Notes
- 1 inch 3 ring folder or Accordion File Organizer.

Before We Meet for Class:

- Bring supplies and be ready for class
- You have a **Three** minutes passing period before class time starts be on time and ready to participate.
- Keep your materials Organized to easily access them between classes.

Expectations:

- All handbook rules apply in this class.
- Respect the teacher, the classroom, other students, and yourself!
- Raise your hand if you have a question or comment.
- Be mindful of others around you, be willing to yield to other speakers for more in depth discussions in science.
- Use kind words when responding to your classmates.
- Participate in lessons and activities.
-  **Remember to Charge Chromebook battery before coming to school.**
- Check google classroom daily all assignments will be posted there.

Academic Integrity:

- Academic Integrity** means being honest, responsible, and respectful—always submit your own work and give credit when using others' ideas.
- Build Trust & Fairness** by doing your own work—everyone deserves an equal chance to succeed through their own efforts.
- Avoid Dishonesty**—using someone else's work (or AI) as your own will result in an automatic zero, no matter how small the assignment.
- Ask for Help Ethically**—it's okay to seek support, but always follow guidelines for collaboration and acknowledge others' contributions.

Organization is Key:

In this class, we will submit all your work on google classroom.

- Check google classroom notifications for updates You are responsible for checking this! **(if you are not receiving email notifications Check your notification settings or email me right way).**
- Check notifications for updates and graded work.

After Class:

- Take a Brain Break!
- Be Proud of the hard work you put into class.
- Check your Schedule & Assignments to see what is left to do for the day !

Types of Assignments to Expect:

- Weekly Daily Assignments – Classwork, interactive video and Slide postings
- Quizzes
- Whole class, small group, and partner discussions**
- Projects – virtual team building exercises, individual/group work, etc.
- Segment Tests

****Participation in Discussions:** Students are expected to participate actively in classroom discussions. Conversation is one of the best ways of learning from your peers, and it is also one of the best ways for me to sense your understanding of the material. To display confusion or to make an error in class is actually preferable than remaining silent. It is MUCH better to let such confusions arise in the low-stakes environment of the classroom than on a paper or the final exam!

Important Procedures:

Grading:

In this class, Grading will be based on mastery of standards and/or expectations. Assignments will be weighted with the following two categories in the aeries gradebook:

Major Grades

(**Summative**; Tests, quizzes, end of unit/chapter assignments and projects designed to demonstrate what students have learned)

Minor Grades

(**Formative**; Assignments designed to show the process of learning including notebooks and practice work)

General Rubric:

Most assignments will be graded using a general rubric like the following below:

A	B	C	D	F
10 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.0				
Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Does not meet Expectations	Does not meet Expectations
The student has a complete and detailed understanding of the topic that exceeds what was taught in class.	The student has a complete understanding of the information important to the topic, but not in great detail.	The student has an incomplete understanding of the topic and/or misconceptions about some of the information. However, the student maintains a basic understanding of the topic.	The student's understanding of the topic is so incomplete or has so many misconceptions that the student cannot be said to understand the topic. i.e. work is turned in but is generally incorrect.	No judgement can be made about the student's understanding of the topic. i.e. work is turned in blank or incomplete, or not turned in at all.

Classwork/Homework:

-According to Jefferson School district board policy, Eighth graders should have homework for approximately one and a half hours four nights a week. There may be homework assigned, but not every night in my science class. Students should study new science concepts daily to prepare for quizzes and tests.

Late/Missing Work:

-Complete and submit all assignments in google classroom on time or on assigned date.

(Reminder: don't forget to Hit the "turn in" button or we will not be notified, and therefore we will not know it is ready to be graded.)

-When absent, students are expected to check the google Classroom while at home and complete the work they can do on their own, so they do not fall behind. Students will be given extra time to complete assignments that need teacher explanation.

-Every day a student is absent, they will be given the same number of days to get their missing work completed.

(For example, if your child is absent for three days, they have three days from when they return to turn in any work they missed for full credit.)

***Students advocate for yourself! If you get behind check in with your teacher don't wait.**

I want you to succeed, but I don't want to care more about your grade than you do. So take the initiative and be responsible for your own learning!

SCIENCE GRADES BREAK DOWN

 -CLASSWORK/HOMEWORK= 35%

 -PROJECTS/LABS/TESTS=45%

 -QUIZZES=20%

General Class Topics:

Engineering and Scientific Practices

- Scientific Method
- Engineering and design process
- Lab Safety

Objects Move and Collide

- Segment 1
- Newton's Third law
- Forces and Motion
- Gravitational Forces
- Kinetic Energy

Noncontact Forces

- Segment 2
- Kinetic & Potential Energy
- Earth, Sun, and Moon Systems
- The Solar System

Evolution Explains Life's Diversity

- Segment 3
- Geologic History of Earth
- Fossil record
- Natural Selection
- Gene and Proteins
- Mutations

Sustaining Local & Global Biodiversity

- Segment 4
- Human Impact
- Properties of waves
- Properties of Visible light

LAB SAFETY POLICIES:

THIS YEAR INSTEAD OF READING A LONG BORING STUDENT SAFETY CONTRACT. PLEASE REVIEW OVER THE INTERACTIVE LAB SAFETY POLICIES IN THE LINK BELOW.

[Lab Safety Interactive Link](#)