

WHITEAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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8th Science Course Syllabus
8th Grade Science

8th Grade Science Course Description

The science program for 8th grade is an integrated approach covering Earth science, Life science, and Physical science. This activities-based course is designed to develop the student's skills in using the scientific inquiry method of investigation. Students can expect to learn through an organized science interactive notebook, labs, and AVID literacy strategies.

8th Grade Standard Based Topics

The Atomic model and the Periodic table	Human impact on the Earth and Earth's resources
Electricity and Magnetism	Change over time, Natural selection, and Evolution
Classification of living things	Earth's processes, Weather/climate, Geological events (i.e. volcanoes and earthquakes)

Daily Materials

Students are expected to have the following materials every day: Spiral notebook of at least 100 pages, Scotch Tape, Pencils, Highlighters (G, Y, P, O, B), Scissors, Colored Pencils, & Metric Ruler. Other useful materials include 3-hole punch, post-it notes, and a calculator.

Guidelines for Success

Success in science stems from students willing to set and meet their own goals. Students need to demonstrate the following skills to be successful...

1. Inquiry
2. Organization
3. Promptness
4. Interaction
5. Preparedness
6. Accountability
7. Respect

Classroom Rules

Science classroom/lab rules are put into place to foster a safe and purposeful learning environment and are not limited to...

1. At NO time will disruptive behavior will be tolerated in the classroom.
2. Behavior of student will be such that NO harm will be brought to self or others.
3. ALL property will be respected regardless of ownership.
4. Students will come to class prepared daily with all materials including their Science Interactive Notebook.
5. Situations not covered in the classroom rules and/or the behavioral expectations as described in the WMS student/parent handbook will be subject of review by Principal/Assistant Principal

Consequences for Classroom Rule Violations

1st Offense = Redirect*

2nd Offense = Phone Call Home/Email home/Interventions*

3rd Offense = Office Referral

* At any time, inappropriate behavior justifying immediate attention will result in office referral.

Activities

Students will engage in major projects and activities involving experimentation, collaboration, inquiry, & summary both in and out of the classroom.

Grades

Like other core subjects at Whiteaker, this class will follow proficiency based grading protocol. The Science Interactive Notebook (Class work and homework) will count toward 20% of a student's overall grade. Assessments will count toward 80% of a student's overall grade. Class work and homework are designed to help students move toward proficiency or advanced proficiency of each standard being taught. Assessments closely follow Oregon State learning targets that highlight what students need to know and how they can show what they know. In many cases, the learning targets ARE the assessments.

Multiple quizzes will be given per unit. Re-takes on quizzes are not allowed. The End of Unit Assessments (EUA's) are summative assessments given at the end of the unit. Re-takes on EUAs are allowed with the following criteria: 1) Science Interactive Notebook for the Unit is scored at an Advanced score and 2) Attend help sessions offered Thursday after school from 2:40 – 3:30! Students may also check with me to attend before and after school tutor options on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays!

- ☉ 4 pts : Advanced understanding of standard (100% - 87.5% = A)
- ☉ 3 pts: Proficient understanding of standard (87.4% - 69.0% = B)
- ☉ 2 pts: Basic or Partially proficient understanding of standard (68.9% - 50.1% =C)
- ☉ 1 pt: Below Basic understanding of standard (50.0% - 37.7%= D)
- ☉ 0 pt: Unsatisfactory understanding of standard (37.6% and below = F)

IEP/TAG/ELL and 504 students

I work diligently to familiarize myself with every one of my students' specific needs (even if your child doesn't fall under one of the below categories).

Assignments can be easily adjusted as needed as we move forward into the different units of study. If you have any additional questions regarding the rate or level of work don't hesitate to ask by emailing, calling, or setting up a meeting.

TAG CONSIDERATIONS – assignment modifications, small grouping, enrichment, flexible grouping, learning styles, and higher-level critical thinking

IEP/ELL/and 504 CONSIDERATIONS – reviewing all documents and working closely with LRC staff to ensure I am meeting their individual needs.

Signature for 8th Grade Science

Parents/Guardians and Students: Please sign below indicating that you have read and understand the science syllabus for this school year. This will be your student's first science grade and will be anchored in their Science Interactive Notebook on the inside front cover. Thank you!

Students Name (print): _____ Period: _____

Parents Name (print): _____ Parents Signature: _____