

Science 8 Syllabus \* Whiteaker Middle School \* 1605 Lockhaven Drive NE \* Keizer, Oregon \* 97303

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### Eighth Grade Science Course Description:

Eighth grade science introduces students to a variety of topics from the traditional areas of physical, Earth, and life science. Standards based topics we will explore include: The atomic model and the periodic table , electricity and magnetism, Earth's processes and resulting geological events such as earthquakes and volcanoes, Classification of living things, change over time, natural selection, and human impact on the Earth and Earth's resources.

Students will explore these topics through a combination of critical reading and writing opportunities, hands on activities, labs, notes, and class discussions.

### Differentiation for All Students:

Opportunities for differentiation of course content standards are available to any student who qualifies based on the following tools to determine an appropriate level of course work: Performance on unit pretests and formative assessments, monitoring of daily work, special considerations determined by a 504 plan, IEP, IE, EY, EP, ET, or TAG designation. Parent and student input is also considered.

Opportunities for differentiation may include assignment modification, contracted, standards based independent study, skills-based grouping with peers for the purpose of collaboration, and instruction that targets multiple learning styles.

### Grading:

Like other core subjects at Whiteaker, this class will follow proficiency based grading protocol. Class work and homework will account for 20% of the student's grade. Assessments will count toward 80% of the student's overall grade. The proficiency based scale is a 1-4 rating:

- **4:** Demonstrates an **advanced understanding** of a standard (87.5% - 100% A)
- **3:** Demonstrates a **proficient level of understanding** of a standard (69.0% - 87.4% B)
- **2:** Demonstrates a **basic understanding** of a standard (68.9% – 87.3% C/ 37.7% - 50.0% D)
- **1:** Demonstrates a **below basic understanding** of a standard (below 37.7% F)

Classwork and homework are designed to help students move toward proficiency or advanced proficiency of each standard being taught. Assessments closely follow the learning targets that highlight what students need to know and how they can demonstrate what they know. In many cases, the learning targets ARE the assessments of the standards. Learning targets are intended to be used as a study guide to help students self-assess where they are in their learning and should be shared and explained at home every day!

### Opportunities to Improve!

Students who would like to improve their level of proficiency in class are encouraged to ask questions and attend help sessions offered on Thursdays from 2:40 – 3:30. Other days may also be available depending on meeting schedules. I am also available most mornings from 7:30 am to 7:50 am.

Students who do not do well on the assessment of any standard may test again for that standard. Second opportunities are weighted 4X more heavily than the first opportunity so BE PREPARED! Students must make arrangements to retake tests, before school or after school.

### Behavior expectations:

- Read, write, speak, listen science first!
- Arrive ready to work and ready to learn
- Be kind
- Challenge **yourself!**
- **Don't give up!** *"Difficult things take a long time. The impossible takes a little longer."* – author unknown/ *"All things are difficult before they are easy!"* - English Proverb/ *Once something is easy; dig deeper! Challenge yourself!*



