

# Honors 8th Grade Science

This course provides students with the skills designed to prepare them for the rigor and depth of accelerated science courses. In addition to the content outlined in Science 8, PreAP science is differentiated through the depth of content, greater complexity of questioning, and the development of higher-level cognitive understanding as demonstrated through discussion, research, and writing. Opportunities for original thinking and collaboration to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate processes in life science are included in the curriculum through content focused laboratory investigations and data collection. The coursework may require individual research and projects which extend beyond the classroom.

**Topics covered:** Forces and Interactions, Energy, Structure and function and information processing, Growth development and Reproduction of Organisms, and Natural selection and adaptation

**Materials:** Notebook

Folder

Writing utensils preferably pencils

Glue sticks

**Grading policy:**

40% -Tests

35% -SI Journal/Labs/Writing in Science

20% -Quizzes

5% -Homework

**Class rules:** Science and science experimentation can be both fun and demanding at the same time. Whether we are learning from lecture or from hands-on activities, the science classroom/lab is never the place for inappropriate behavior to be exhibited that may directly or indirectly affects the learning environment, health and safety of all concerned. Therefore,

**Be Respectful:** Students are expected to treat the teacher and other students with respect at all times. Offensive language and hatefulness is not acceptable in this class. Use the guideline "Do the Right Thing."

**Be ready:** Students are expected to be in their seats and prepared for class when the bell rings. Being prepared for class means having all materials: pens, notebook, folder etc. out and ready.

**Be safe:** Students are expected to pay attention to the teacher and their peers. Listen the first time directions are given. We will be working with various materials in the class and it is important to know directions the first time.

The phrase "I don't know" is not allowed in this classroom. Science is a new and exciting area for all of us so we might not know YET but we will work together so that we do.

**Consequences:** Inappropriate behavior (depending on the nature, severity, or frequency of the infraction) may result in one or more of the following actions by the teacher.

1. Verbal/Visual warning
2. One-on-one conference with student on behavior issues
3. Phone call to parents concerning student's behavior issues
4. Face to face conference with parent(s) and student on behavior issues
5. Removal from class/lab environment with a zero grade for the activity.
6. Student will be assigned Administrative Reflection (One (1) hour - Parents will be notified)

**Homework:** Practice is an important part of science. Homework is a great way to study and prepare for labs and daily activities. Students will have to complete all parts of the homework to receive credit for the assignments. All students will start with a 100 for homework. Every missed assignment will drop this grade by 5 points.

**Journals:** Students will be writing journals in class to practice writing across the curriculum.

**Labs:** Students will conduct numerous labs which will bolster science literacy and complement the lectures and textbook assignments. The intent of these labs is to enable students to master science concepts, to develop scientific reasoning, and to work as a team. Most missed labs due to absences should be made up the day the student returns during lunch or for a rescheduled date.