

Science Syllabus

“Jolly”

In science, hard candies are used on various occasions. Please bring in one large bag of hard wrapped candy during the first week of school. Examples: Jolly Ranchers, Werther’s Original, suckers, etc.

Materials and Supplies

Binder Tabs –

- Vocabulary
- Chapter Reinforcements
- Tests

Expectations

Be prepared by coming to class by having all materials and being where you are supposed to be. (Be on time for class. A conduct slip will be issued for not having all your materials and for every unexcused tardy in periods 2-7).

If you run out of these materials during the school year, it is your responsibility to replace them.

Assignments

- Written on board, daily
- Posted online Class Assignment Page. Please note that due dates are subject to change and will be noted on board and web page.

Expectations

- Follow directions.
- Celebrate the success of others.
- Embrace challenges
- Do tasks with maximum effort.

Grading, Late Work, Absences, Conduct

Grades will be determined by adding up all the points earned by the student. Tests are 100 points, Quizzes are 50-60 points and Homework is 0-50 points.

Late Work – It is in your best interest to complete homework on time. All assignments are designed to strengthen skills and are progressive in content. If you do not do homework or are late, then learning may be affected. Assignments turned in one day late will earn a maximum of 70% credit. Assignments turned in two days late will earn a maximum of 50% credit. After two days 0% credit will be given. A conduct slip will also be issued for late work stating *Academic Responsibility*.

Absences – When you miss class, **you** are responsible for finding out what needs to be made up on the day you return. Every teacher will provide you with copies of any worksheets or activities that you missed. Copy any notes that you missed from a friend.

You will be given the same number of days to make up as you had excused absences. Remember to turn in assignments or they will be considered as late.

Conduct Slips – See student handbook for middle school procedures.

Is Homework Really Necessary?

This emotion-stirring question has been debated since the early 1900's. The homework question is best answered by examining research. Studies at Duke University compared students who were assigned homework with students who were not assigned homework. The results of these studies suggest that homework does improve test scores (Cooper). Additional studies show that the more homework students complete, especially from grades six to twelve, the better they do in school, according to research conducted by psychologists Harris Cooper, Ph.D., James J. Lindsay, Ph.D., and Scott Greathouse, Ph.D., of the University of Missouri -- Columbia and psychologist Barbara Nye, Ph.D., of Tennessee State University (American Psychological Association).

My Dream for You

Have hope.
Have an imagination on fire.
And a
love for learning

**"The (students) who had the greatest success
were those who were willing to take
...ownership of their learning and responsibility for their behavior."**

David Conley

Homework's Design

Homework is designed to

- A. develop thought processes by:
 - giving students further practice in applying their learned concepts in new and concrete avenues;
 - allowing students to apply skills to validate knowledge by reinforcing concepts;
 - providing opportunities to use their knowledge to formulate new constructs;
- B. develop personal educational skills by:
 - providing opportunities to improve reading comprehension;
 - encouraging students to discover their own personal study techniques; thereby, formulating effective study skills;
 - strengthening time management;
 - experiencing accomplishment and success;
 - actively participating in the learning process

No substitute for hard work

Nobody is great without work. It's nice to believe that if you find the field where you're naturally gifted, you'll be great from day one, but it doesn't happen. There's no evidence of high-level performance without experience or practice.

Practice makes perfect

Simply hitting a bucket of balls is not deliberate practice, which is why most golfers don't get better. Hitting an eight-iron 300 times with a goal of leaving the ball within 20 feet of the pin 80 percent of the time, continually observing results and making appropriate adjustments, and doing that for hours every day - that's deliberate practice.

Consistency is crucial. As Ericsson notes, "Elite performers in many diverse domains have been found to practice, on the average, roughly the same amount every day, including weekends."

http://archive.fortune.com/magazines/fortune/fortune_archive/2006/10/30/8391794/index.htm

The Honor Code*

University School students are people of integrity. They will hold to the highest standards of personal honor. They embrace fairness in all actions. They will tell the truth. They will ensure that work submitted as their own is their own, and the assistance received from any source is properly documented. Students respect school and public property as well as the person property of others. All work is honest and free from cheating.

This Honor Code represents honor, personal integrity, and honesty. It serves as a representative of the values we uphold in middle school. The characteristics valued include those listed below, but are not limiting the generalities of other modes of integrity.

A. Honor Code Violations

Any act of dishonesty in academic work is an Honor Code violation and constitutes academic misconduct. Academic misconduct is subject to disciplinary action. Penalties for academic misconduct vary with the seriousness of the offense and may include, but are not limited to, a grade of "0" on the assignment, a conduct slip, an office referral. If further consequences are needed, a conference with administration will be requested.

1. Cheating

Cheating is defined as, but not limited to, the giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on an examination or assignment, or otherwise failing to adhere to the assignment instructions as provided by the professor. Examples of cheating include but are not limited to:

- a. someone, other than the student, completing required homework
- b. possessing or having unauthorized materials such as teacher manuals
- c. listening to or participating in a discussion regarding an examination which the student has yet to take;
- d. attempting to look at another student's exam;
- e. falsifying documents
- f. unauthorized communication between students during an examination or non-group assignment.

2. Plagiarism

Plagiarism is generally defined as the submission of another's work by a student as his/her own. Examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to:

- a. reproducing someone else's work, whether it is a published article, chapter of a book, a paper from another individual, or an internet source;
- b. making simple changes, while leaving the general organization, content or phraseology intact, without proper citation;
- c. employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work that a student submits as his/her own.

In cases where students are unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

The Honor Code*

B. Other Honor Code Violations

1. Lack of Integrity
 - a. Purposely falsifying documents or otherwise furnishing false information.
2. Inappropriate Conduct
 - a. Dishonest, aggressive, disrespectful, or inappropriate verbal or written communication or behavior, **or bullying**.
 - b. Committing or threatening violence or harm against another person
3. Improper Classroom Etiquette
 - a. Consistently engaging in behavior that disrupts, obstructs, or otherwise interferes with the teaching and learning process in the classroom or practice site.
 - b. Failure to adhere to test administration protocol or instructions.
4. Improper Appearance or Attire
 - a. Consistently failing to adhere to dress code policy as stated in University School Student Handbook
5. Inappropriate Behaviors
 - a. Stealing, damaging or defacing property of others
 - b. Lack of reliability, responsibility, and commitment to learning, including missing classes and assignments, failure to meet deadlines, and arriving late to school.

Any offenses of honor are not tolerated in the middle school program and may be subject to a grade reduction, a zero grade on an assignment, a conduct slip or an office referral. If further action is needed, a conference will be requested with administration.

* Content taken from Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy, Student Handbook, East Tennessee State University, 2017.

Tear off this page and return the next school day. Put this syllabus in the front of your science section of your binder.

I understand the learning expectations, classroom rules for Science and the Middle School Code of Conduct. I will do all that I can to meet the learning expectations and follow the classroom rules.

Student Name (Print) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____