

Seventh and Eighth Grade 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

Textbooks – We have classroom copies of our textbooks that will always be available at school. I recommend that you keep your textbook at home for convenience. To use the online textbook and workbook go to the website listed on the first page in your textbook

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 in Parent Connect (with due date). Please note that due dates are subject to change and will be noted on board and Parent Connect.

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.

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

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

David Conley