



Pre-AP Science 8

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Conference Period: 5th Period (11:42am – 12:28pm)

Tutoring Opportunities: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning 7:00am -8:15am; Thursday after school 3:30pm – 4:00pm. I will open the front door by the offices at 7:00am until 7:10am for students to enter the building and go to my classroom to work on their homework, focus notes summaries or retake tests.

**Tutoring hours are subject to change for school meetings, assigned school duties and updated COVID procedures. For tutoring during 7:45 -8:15, students must have a pass from that teacher as space will be limited.

Class Materials:

- 1 Composition Notebook
- Pencils or Pen [blue or black ink]
- Glue or tape
- Colored pencils or pens [no markers please]

Textbooks are kept in the classroom but are also available online at: www.curiosityplace.com . The online edition username and password will be provided in your student's Canvas account under the announcement tab. The preferred browser is Explorer/Edge as other browsers may not correctly display all resources.

*If a student needs a textbook for home, contact Mrs. Harvey.

Access to Canvas and Office365 tools is available to students through our [Single Sign-on Portal \(SSO\)](#). Students receive their SSO login during enrollment.

Course Description:

408071 – Pre-AP Science 8

This course is designed to provide advanced skills necessary to be able to use evidence to construct testable explanations and predictions of natural phenomena. While much of the focus is on earth and space science, the course is built on the following strands: scientific investigations and reasoning; matter and energy; force, motion, and energy; earth and space; and organisms and environment. Advanced critical thinking and problem solving will be developed with individual or group research projects presented in a competitive or public forum. This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Placement program through sustained habits necessary for success in the College Board's AP program.

Course Goals:

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to have a working knowledge of:

- Properties of Atoms
- Chemical Formulas, Equations, and Reactions

- Force, Motion and Energy
- Characteristics of the Universe
- Impact of Natural Events and Climatic Interactions
- Interdependence of Living Systems

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 60% Major 40% Minor
- Major grades – tests (including District Common Assessments, six weeks assessments, projects, final essays, research papers, presentations); minimum three per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, journals; minimum ten per six weeks
- Semester exams will count 1/7 of the semester grade
- A letter system (S, N, U) is used to report a student’s conduct based on proper/responsive conduct and citizenship
- Per Board Policy EIA (LOCAL), “The District shall permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a **failing** grade. This policy applies only to initial identified major grades and does not apply to daily assignments, quizzes, six-week test, and semester final examinations. Upon reteach and retest, the new test, project, etc. recorded will be a high score of 70%.
- Official grades will be in Skyward only and can be accessed by student and parent through Family Access.

Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:

Students are expected to give their best effort with each task in the Pre-AP Science 8 classroom including but not limited to the following:

- Bring the required materials each day
- Turn in all completed assignments on time with justification of thinking included
- Assignments not completed in class should be completed at home and turned in the next day unless another due date is specified by the teacher.
- Ask questions in class, attend tutorials and retest opportunities
- Utilize any study guides provided by studying outside of class time

Students will be assigned projects that may require work to be done outside of class time that count as a major grade. Students will receive reminders of project due dates to include any required check point dates and expectations.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

- All students shall be allowed to makeup work when they are absent from class.
- Students shall have a time equal to days absent from class plus one day to complete all missed assignments.
- Under extenuating circumstances such as long-term illness or family emergencies, teachers will work with the student to determine the due dates for make-up work missed.
- Make-up tests should be administered before or after school to prevent a student from missing additional class time.
- Work, including tests, assigned prior to an absence may be due on the first return day.
- No late work will be accepted after 3 school business days and a zero is recorded in the grade book.

- A student will not be allowed to redo an assignment for which he/she received a zero or to retake a test for which the student received a zero.
- Students who passed a major grade assignment or assessment and earned a grade of a 70 – 84 will be given the opportunity to retest for the highest available grade of an 85.
- Students who fail to report to class on time will be subject to the following consequence:
 - **Per Six Weeks – all tardies marked in skyward**
 - First tardy = freebie [marked in skyward]
 - Second tardy = warning [marked in skyward]
 - Third tardy = teacher conference/call home
 - Fourth tardy = office referral

Classroom Expectations:

- Students should arrive to class and be in their seat on time with required materials.
- Upon entering the classroom, students should complete the warmup and be prepared to discuss their answers.
- Students should maintain an organized and detailed Interactive Science Notebook (ISN).
- Students are expected to participate in classroom discussions with respect for the instructor and fellow students.
- All assignments should be completed with integrity and to the best of each student’s ability.
- Appropriate behavior is expected from all students to maintain a safe and respectful learning environment.
- All electronics are OFF and away during the day unless the teacher directs you otherwise as per student handbook.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

The following is a list of the Unit Topics and the window for the District Common Assessment [DCA]. Some of the units’ cross over a six-weeks grading period and therefore the DCA may be earlier in the six-weeks instead of toward the end.

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| Unit 1- Atoms and Periodic Table | DCA #1: September 9-11, 2020 |
| Unit 2- Chemical Formulas, Equations and Reactions | |
| Unit 3- Force, Motion and Energy | DCA #2: October 21-23, 2020 |
| Unit 4- Sun, Earth and Moon | |
| Unit 5- Characteristics of the Universe | DCA #3: November 18-20, 2020 |
| Unit 6- Climate Interactions | |
| Unit 7- Plate Tectonics | DCA #4: February 3-5, 2021 |
| Unit 8- Topographic Maps | |
| Unit 9- Interdependence of Living Things | DCA #5: March 10-12, 2021 |
| | DCA #6: April 14-16, 2021 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Semester Exam Week: January 13-15, 2021 • Spring Semester Exam Week: May 26-28, 2021 | |

Pre-AP Science 8 will also have a several extensive labs through the year. These labs use the Argument Driven Inquiry (ADI) process and may take up to two weeks to complete before the final write up will be due. During

these labs, there will be up to 2 check-ins in which a minor grade will be given. The final lab write-up will be a major grade and may require a little time outside of class if it is not completed during the provided class time.

- **Science 8 STAAR Test:** May 7, 2020

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity values the work of individuals regardless if it is another student's work, a researcher, or author. The pursuit of learning requires each student to be responsible for his or her academic work. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in our schools. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee and considers written materials, observation, or information from students. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary and/or academic penalties. The teacher and campus administrator shall jointly determine such action.