



8th Grade Advanced Science

Lisa Craft

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Conference Period: 8th Period, 2:53-3:40

Tutoring Opportunities: please schedule with me for tutorials

Class Materials:

- Composition Notebook, Pencils and Paper, Scissors, Colored Pencils, ruler, glue stick & earbuds
- Canvas (log in single sign on portal)
- [CPO Textbook](#) (Login: Colts, Password: Creekview)
- StemScopes (log in single sign on portal)

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:

This course is designed to provide students with the 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.

Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course will have a solid introduction to the science courses they will encounter in high school, as to help lay the foundation for further achievements in science.

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:

Expectations Outside of the Classroom: Work not completed in class is homework and will be due the next day. If the work is not turned in on time, it will count as a zero in the gradebook until it is turned in. See Grade & Reporting Handbook for details. Each six weeks students will be expected to complete the following in the form of homework. There will not be time given in class for these assignments:

- Ring Words - Vocabulary words will be assigned several times throughout the year. This is a major grade that is designed to reinforce important vocabulary learned throughout this year.
- Argument Driven Inquiry (ADI) Labs-each ADI lab requires a formal report. Time in class will be allowed, but if it is not completed it will be homework. ADI Labs reports are a major grade.
- Test Prep – Students will be expected to study/prepare for tests.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

Be present **every day** for class. Additionally, make sure you are **always** on time! Instructional time is bell to bell, so if you are not physically present and engaged, you are missing out on valuable learning!
2 Tardies = Verbal Warning; 3 Tardies = Phone Call Home; 4 Tardies = Office Referral

Should you become ill and unable to attend class, your parent may email me to obtain the missing assignment or you may see me when you return. You are responsible for any assignments, notetaking, or learning that you missed. Students have equal time to the days absent plus one day to turn in makeup work.

Classroom Expectations:

Be on time, on task, and prepared to learn every day! (Determination is the key.)
Respect the teacher, the classroom, other students, and yourself. (Be the nice kid!)
Be responsible for your own learning & clean up after yourself. (Work hard; then play hard!)
Follow all lab rules & expectations. This includes no food, drinks or gum.
Keep all personal electronics off and away.
Campus policy is that a planner and student ID is required for a restroom pass during class.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

1st six weeks- Atoms & The Periodic Table
2nd six weeks- Chemical Equations & Force, Motion and Energy
3rd six weeks- Force, Motion and Energy & Sun, Earth, Moon
4th six weeks- Characteristics of the Universe, Climate Interactions, & Plate Tectonics
5th six weeks- Plate Tectonics, Topographic Maps, & Ecology
6th six weeks- Ecology & STAAR Review

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.