



ADVANCED 8th Grade Science

Amy Edgemon

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Conference Period: 4th period 10:53am – 11:38am

Tutoring Opportunities: M, W, Th & F – 7:45am – 8:15am

M, T, Th – 3:30pm-4:00pm

Class Materials:

Replace this text with any or all of the following:

- 8th grade Texas Science CPO textbook -
- <http://curiosityplace.schoolspeciality.com> (login - edgemon8, password - edgemon8)
- In addition to those supplies listed on the district website, we can always use more glue and Kleenex
- Students will have access at school to the single sign on

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 – Advanced 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 Academics program through sustained habits necessary for college success.

Course Goals:

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Conduct field and laboratory investigations
- Use critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Analyze information in the areas of chemistry, physics, and earth science
- Successfully design and implement investigations that are argument driven

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 60% Major 40% Minor (Advanced courses 70% Major 30% Minor)
- Major grades – tests (including District Common Assessments, projects, final essays, research papers, presentations); minimum three per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, journals; minimum four per six weeks

- Each six weeks will count as 1/6 and the semester exam will count as 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 and quizzes. 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:**
Homework is assigned several times throughout the week and will need to be completed on student's time. It is the student's responsibility to seek out tutoring if they need assistance. For full credit, homework must be completed on time. There will be at least 2 at home projects assigned this year.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

Student is expected to be in class each day school is in session. If a student misses class, students need to schedule time (outside of class time) to visit with me upon their return, to discuss missing assignments.

Because tardiness disrupts the classroom and negatively affects the learning environment, students should arrive punctually to class. Students are allowed four minutes to travel from one class to the next. Excessive unexcused tardy will be reported and is addressed by campus administration.

Make Up Work – For any class missed, I may assign the student make up work based on instructional objectives for the subject or course and the needs of the individual student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or in meeting subject course requirements. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will received a grade of a zero for the assignment. Students shall have time equal to days absent from class plus one days to complete all missed assignments. If an assignment is given prior to the absence, the assignment is due on the day the student returns.

Classroom Expectations:

Students will come to class with all required supplies, ready to learn. Students are expected to follow all lab safety guidelines, as discussed, each school year. Students who keep other students from learning will be assigned alternate seating.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

1. Units 1 and 2 cover all aspects of Chemistry
2. Unit 3 is Force, Motion & Energy
3. Units 4 & 5 cover Astronomy
4. Unit 6 is Climate Interactions
5. Unit 7 and 8 is Geology
6. Unit 9 is Interdependence of living things.

Academic Integrity: Update from GRH

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.