

## Advanced Science

Ms. Amy Edgemon

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**Conference Period: 3<sup>rd</sup> period**

**Tutoring Opportunities:**

**Mon, Tuesday, Wednesday mornings – 7:45-8:20**

**After School – By prior arrangement**

- **Class Materials:**  
8th Grade Texas Science CPO textbook
- <https://curiosityplace.schoolspeciality.com/>
- in addition to those supplies listed on the district website, we can always use more glue or glue sticks and tissue

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:

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- 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 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 1/3 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 students' time. It is the students' responsibility to seek out tutoring if they need assistance. For full credit, homework must be completed on time (by midnight on the day the assignment was given during remote learning). There will be at least 2 at home projects assigned this year.

**Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:**

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work: Student is expected to be in class each day school is in session. If a student missed class, they need to schedule time (outside of class time) to visit with me upon their return, to discuss missing assignments. If we are in distance learning, you must log in every day for attendance. 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 tardies will be reported and is addressed by campus administration. Makeup Work: For any class missed, I may assign the student makeup work based on the 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 or course requirements. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment. Students shall have time equal to days absent from class plus one day 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. They 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**

- Units 1 and 2 cover all aspects of Chemistry
- Unit 3 is Force, Motion & Energy
- Units 4 and 5 cover Astronomy
- Unit 6 is Climate Interactions
- Unit 7 and 8 is Geology
- Unit 9 is interdependence of Living Things

**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.