



Science 8

Meredeth Burchett

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Conference Period: 1:56-2:41

Tutoring Opportunities: Teams Availability 7:45-8:00am or by appt

Class Materials:

- One composition notebook, college ruled, any color

-Student will need to have access to the internet for use of Canvas at home when necessary

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 skills necessary to apply science concepts to their everyday life. Along with being able to ask questions and solve problems, students are able to collect and organize data, and draw conclusions based on their findings. 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. The students are encouraged to advance their critical thinking and problem-solving skills by participating in individual or group research.

Course Goals:

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Describe and explain the structure of atoms and how this related to the information and patterns represented in the periodic table of elements
- Investigate evidence of chemical reactions and recognize that the substances involved in a reaction can be represented by chemical formulas using chemical symbols and subscripts
- Demonstrate and calculate how unbalanced forces change the speed and direction of an object through investigation and description of applications of Newton's Laws
- Model, illustrate, and predict the motion of celestial objects such as the Sun, Moon and Earth and their effects
- Describe the components of the universe and use models for classification
- Interpret maps and satellite views to predict how weathering and plate tectonics may change crustal and erosional features of earth
- Describe relationships between organisms and the biotic and abiotic factors in their environment and explore how short and long term environmental changes can affect populations and traits

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 four 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 will setup and utilize an Interactive Science Notebook that will be used in class on a daily basis.
- Students will frequently be assigned a homework assignment that corresponds with topics currently or soon to be covered in class. This homework will usually be assigned at the beginning of the week and will usually be due at the end of the week.
- Classroom daily assignments that are not finished during class or large assignments such as projects may require work outside of the normal school day. All due dates will be communicated to student when an assignment is given and will be posted in Canvas. Students are responsible for turning assignments in on or before the due date.
- Late Assignments: Assignments given will have a due date that is given to students at the same time the assignment is given. This includes worksheet, reviews, and projects. Students are expected to keep up with these due dates. Assignments turned in after the due date will be subject to a 10-point penalty each day it is late for the first 3 days. After 3 days, the student will need to attend a lunch detention of after school session in order to complete the assignment.

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. Teachers may reduce the length or number of assignments as long as the appropriate TEKS are covered.
- Students returning to class following an absence are responsible for discussing with the teacher what is to be completed and date for such completion, along with securing necessary materials and notes.
- Make-up work, including tests, at teacher discretion may be an alternate version of the original work (including online) as long as it is at the same level of cognition and covers the identical learning target(s).
- Make-up tests should be administered before or after school to prevent a student from missing additional class time. At a teacher’s discretion, tests may be made up during the school day.

- Work, including tests, assigned prior to an absence may be due on the first return day. See the late work policy elsewhere in this document for make-up work not turned in when due dates have been set.
- This requirement does not nullify or replace any established campus procedures in place related to “no zero procedures”.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Electronic Devices : Personal electronic devices will not be allowed in 8th grade classrooms this year. Students will need to place personal electronic devices in their locker during class times. This includes cell phones, headphones, headsets, etc.
2. We may or may not have assigned seat in class, depending on class behavior, but the seating arrangement is at Ms. Burchett’s discretion for the good of all students. If asked to move seats, please do so immediately and without issue.
3. Consequences: When students do not follow these expectations, there are several ways in which the teacher may choose to try to correct the behavior:
 - a. Verbal Warning/Seat change
 - b. Lunch Detention
 - c. After School detention
 - d. As a last resort, or for insupportable behavior, an office referral

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Unit 1: Chemistry: Atomic Structure/Periodic Table	Unit 6: Weather
Unit 2: Chemistry: Reactions and Equations	Unit 7: Plate Tectonics
Unit 3: Force, Motion, and Energy	Unit 8: Topographic Maps
Unit 4: Sun, Earth, and Moon Systems	Unit 9: Ecology
Unit 5: Characteristics of the Universe	

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.