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Conference Period: Second Period, 9:10 am to 10:00 am.

Tutoring Opportunities: Tutorial times will be Tuesday through Thursday mornings, 7:45 to 8:15. After school tutorials will need to be scheduled with me by the student.

Class Materials

- Students will need the following supplies each day; their science notebook, a writing utensil (pencils are preferred, but a pen will work), and enthusiasm.
- Additionally, scissors, color pencils with hand sharpener, scotch tape, a dry erase marker, and plastic bags will come in “handy”.

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:

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.

Science 8 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:

- 1) Demonstrate safe lab practices.
- 2) Demonstrate proper use of lab materials and supplies.
- 3) Understand what factors effect life processes on Earth.
- 4) Be successful at the next grade level.

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, interactive journals); minimum three per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, labs, interactive journals; minimum per four 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%.

Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:

Students will complete all daily work in class. Any unfinished minor assignments may be completed on the students own time, including teacher tutorials. If a student is absent for a hands-on lab, efforts will be made to for the student to make-up the lab or be given an alternative assignment.

A hard copy review will be provided for all major tests. Students will be expected to complete the review prior to the test.

Missed tests must be made up during the teacher tutorial time.

Projects will be completed outside of class. Students will be provided a grading rubric and due dates for major projects.

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:

I believe that each student is responsible FOR themselves and responsible TO each other.

40% of class time will be spent doing lab investigations. These will be partner assignments. Students are expected to treat the room, supplies, and each other with respect.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

1st 6 weeks Safety Procedures and Methods, CER, Atoms, Periodic Table

2nd 6 weeks	Safety Procedures and Methods, CER, Chemical Formulas, Equations, Reactions, Force, Motion, and Energy
3rd 6 weeks	Safety Procedures and Methods, CER, Force, Motion, and Energy, Sun, Earth, Moon, Characteristics of the Universe.
First Semester Exams	Week of January 13
4th 6 weeks	Safety Procedures and Methods, CER, Characteristics of the Universe, Climate Interactions, Plate Tectonics
5th 6 weeks	Safety Procedures and Methods, CER, Plate Tectonics, Topographic Maps, Interdependence of Living Things
6th 6 weeks	Safety Procedures and Methods, CER, STAAR REVIEW
Second Semester Exams	Week of May 27

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.