

## 8th Grade Science Course Information 2019-2020

### Contact information:

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**Overview:** We will be exploring a variety of topics in physical, life, earth and space sciences. Each area will provide the opportunity to experiment, make models, discuss, read and write using appropriate academic vocabulary. Critical thinking, confidence in using your unique voice, and growth in your knowledge of scientific methods are the broad goals for the class.

Everyone has the potential to meet or exceed the goals for our class. My expectations are high, but I know every student is capable of meeting them with hard work, a willingness to make mistakes, and focus on growth as a learner and scientist.

**Grading:** Grading for this class will be proficiency-based; demonstrating what you know and can do are the primary basis for the grade on the report card. Assignments are broken into two main categories.

### Category 1: Practice

These assignments will represent no more than 25% of the grade; however, classroom work and take-home work must be completed for the following reasons:

1. Practice of skills will ensure success in class and on assessments, facilitate class discussion.
2. Provide informal assessments of the student's current skill level so I can adjust instruction.
3. Completion of classwork/homework assignments will be reported through ParentVue/StudentVue.
4. Practice of skills and completion of classwork/homework assignments will be required for retaking tests.

### Category 2: Projects and Labs

These assignments will represent no more than 25% of the grade. Several projects and/or labs will be Assigned in conjunction with our various units. Projects and labs provide students an opportunity to apply what you've learned, as well as collect, verify, analyze and publish data collected.

### Category 3: Assessments

Assessments will reflect 50% of a student's grade. Assessments may include a traditional test made up of multiple choice or essay questions, projects, socratic seminars or other activities. Science classes will be assessed with regards to standards, focused on science process skills and knowledge.

The table below will be useful when looking at ParentVue or StudentVue. It shows how grades are broken down and what they mean. **I encourage both parents and students to look at ParentVue/StudentVue regularly.**

Rubric Score (out of 4)	Rubric Percent	Meaning	Letter Grade	*Out of 100%
4	100%	Exceeds the standard	A	100%-87.5%
3	75%	Meets the standard	B	87.49%-75%
2	50%	Approaching the standard	C	74.49%-56.25%
1	25%	Developing toward the standard	D	56.24%-12.5%

*\*For us folks who were used to the 10% per letter grade system used widely in the past.*

Missing assignments are marked with 0.5 and a comment on Parent/StudentVue stating they are missing. These assignments can be handed in up until the specified date at the end of the quarter. When the assignment is handed in and has been graded the missing comment will be removed. Work handed in late will be graded after other assignments.

Late work is accepted and noted in the gradebook as such. There is no penalty for handing in late work. If a pattern of late work develops, it may be necessary to conference with the student, or student and parent to problem-solve.

**Retakes and Revisions:** Students have an opportunity to retake assessments and redo practice assignments to improve their grade. To be eligible to retake an assessment, activities will need to be completed to prepare. When the activities are complete, students will need to schedule the assessment during rendezvous, before or after school.

**Prearranged and other absences:** Students with unarranged absences are given extra time to complete work. **For each day absent, you will be given 1 extra day to complete and turn in assignments.** Please keep up with the class by checking the class website. Students with prearranged absences do not have a grace period. If you have an assignment/project due while you are gone, it **MUST** be turned-in prior to the absence or your first day back in class. The **ONLY** exception is assessments, which **MUST** be—at the latest—scheduled to take upon the student’s return and within the first week back.

*Communication with the teacher is critical. I am here to help and be supportive, but I can’t do it effectively without good information. I encourage students to reach out whenever they’re struggling with any aspect of class. Working together, we can reach any goal we set!*

We have reviewed the information above. *Please print student and parent name and email*, and obtain a parent/guardian signature below.

Student Name:	Parent Name:
Parent email:	Parent Signature: