

# Course Outline 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

## **Course Goal:**

I would hope that when you walk away from our class that it was a positive experience for you. I only ask that you give me your best, as I will give you mine. Only you can decide what your best is, however hold in mind that I will demand a high standard from you along the way.

## **Life Goal:**

What do you want to be doing in two, ten, or twenty years? You create your own goals and you must strive to achieve those goals. For some of you, your goal may be just to survive Science, others it will be to graduate from High School. Some of you will go on to a trade or into business, others will attend college, some will join the armed forces. You must consider where each of your choices will lead you over the next twenty years.

Just remember, I am only one guide on your journey through school. It can be a pleasant trip or a very unpleasant trip... that will be for you to decide.

## **Required Daily Class Materials:**

1. A 2 pocket folder (for homework)
2. A pencil, eraser, and a pen (blue or black ink only)
3. Agenda for assignments
4. Loose leaf paper

*In order to be prepared, students are expected to bring to class items 1-4 from the list above and to dress appropriately.*

## **Grading System**

20%	Homework
20%	Labs
20%	Quizzes
40%	Tests
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100%	Total

*I reserve the right to change the weight of any assignment or in-class activity.*

## **Class-work Participation and Attitude:**

Effort counts! In order to be successful in life you must come prepared. Bring your required class materials.

Show a positive attitude. A positive attitude from the outside looks like someone who is paying attention, who is not complaining or whining, and is motivated to do his or her best.

Class work is expected. Take good notes. When asked, work with a partner, or a group, or on your own. Participate by raising your hand to ask questions or answer a question.

## **Homework:**

All assignments are due at the beginning of the class, or a zero grade results.

Students may receive a maximum of 70% of the earned grade when the assignment is turned in by the start of the next class or block; otherwise, the zero grade must remain.

When legally absent, students are responsible for collecting missed assignments upon their return. After 5 school days, NO owed work will be accepted including tests, quizzes, or other assignments.

I require you to stay 13<sup>th</sup> in order to make up owed work.

*Homework is given to reinforce the material we are learning and studying. It is your responsibility to do your homework so that you succeed on assessments.*

## **Quizzes:**

Quizzes can be announced ahead of time or can be unannounced. The quizzes will always reflect information from class and/or from the homework.

## **Tests:**

Most of the assessments that you will receive will be standardized tests that parallel the New York State Exam you will take in June. Exams will have multiple-choice questions and constructed responses. The tests are created in such a way as to resemble the state test as closely as possible including, format, physical appearance, and using questions from previous state tests.

## **Labs:**

At different points throughout the year, we will work on labs. For every lab, you will receive a lab instruction sheet. The instruction sheet will tell you step by step how to complete the lab.

## **Reading and Writing in Science:**

Written assignments are built directly into this course and are a valuable tool for me to evaluate your writing, thinking, and organizational skills. Reading and writing skills are important in every course you take and in every aspect of life. You can learn new information at any point in your life if you can read and write.

That being said, you will find that in this science class – We Read! We Write! And then we read and write some more! For every unit, we will have to read.

To do your best from the start, it is wise not to complain. Instead of complaining, if you find reading and writing to be very difficult, then you need to seek extra help and guidance. I am always willing to help someone who wants to work and improve!

## **Music Lessons:**

You are responsible for handing in all work the day it is due. Going to lessons is not an excuse for handing in work late or for not taking a quiz or test.

If you have a lesson during my class, you must sign out on the lesson sign out sheet in the front of the room and turn in your work before homeroom that day or at the beginning of the period. You may not attend a lesson if a quiz or test is scheduled.

You must stay 13<sup>th</sup> to make up missed class-work.

If you go to a lesson without permission on the day of a quiz or test, you will receive a zero.

## **Class Rules:**

**I have four basic rules that must be followed in class:**

- 1. When I or anyone else is talking - you are not**
- 2. The stated rule above and the school rules are adhered to without question**
- 3. Respect others and their opinions, even if you do not agree with them**
- 4. No tipping back in chairs**