

WELCOME TO 8th Grade Science

Syllabus 2014-2015

INSTRUCTOR: Mrs. Luoto

ROOM: 102

Email: hluto@eup.k12.mi.us

School Phone: (906) 477-6313 ext.102

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course students will further their understanding of the nature and practice of science (i.e. scientific method). Earth Science topics will include an overview of Earth systems and cycles and the movement of elements, compounds, and energy within and between the four component systems. Next students will study the solid Earth (geosphere) and fluid Earth (hydrology, oceans, climate, and weather). At the end of the course students will learn the position of the Earth in the universe and its evolution over time. This is a hands-on course that will incorporate inquiry, traditional classroom activities and technology.

CLASS GOAL

The goal is for each student to master the High School Content Expectations (HSCEs) for Earth Science and begin practicing the Next Generation Science Standards Science and Engineering Practices.

CURRICULUM

Students will use the textbook and other resources. Course materials, learning activities and assessments will be aligned to the Michigan HSCEs for High School Earth Science. The 8th Grade Science topics of instruction are:

Quarter 1: The Nature and Practice of Science, Earth Systems, Earth Cycles and Human Impacts

Quarter 2: The Solid Earth

Quarter 3: The Fluid Earth

Quarter 4: The Earth in Space and Time

The HSCEs and curriculum topics for each unit can be reviewed at <http://www.eup.k12.mi.us/page/719>

TEXTBOOK: Prentice Hall, Science Explorer: Earth Science

The condition of the texts will be determined and recorded when the books are given to the students per school policy. If the book is damaged when returned, the student will be charged as outlined in the *Student Handbook*.

TECHNOLOGY:

This course integrates technology into instruction and assessments. Students will need to bring their charged netbooks (and power cord) to class EVERY day. Student will use their netbooks to view text, complete assignments, conduct research, complete projects, use Web 2.0 tools and to take online assessments. I will notify students when using cell phones in the classroom is appropriate.

MATERIALS

The following materials should be brought to class each day:

- Planner
- Pencils w/erasers
- Pen
- Paper
- 3-ring binder (journal) (may be kept in the classroom)
- Netbook & power cord
- Headphones/ear phones
- Completed homework
- Water bottle

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

Students will be given an online unit pre-test before instruction for each unit begins. Student's scores on the pre-test WILL NOT be included in the 9 week grade. Post-test scores WILL BE calculated into the 9 week grade. Students will be required to keep select assignments in a 3-ring binder for part of their weekly journal grade. Graded assignments will include weekly journal grades, quizzes, tests, labs, and projects. Note: Some assignments are for practice and will not be part of the student's grade. Points will be assigned based on the length and type of assignment.

Example

Science Journals – 25 pts

Quizzes - 20 pts

Projects – 50 pts

Unit Tests – 100 pts

Summative Tests (Exams) – 100 pts

Letter Grade	Percentage Range
A	93.5-100
A-	89.5-93.4
B+	86.4-89.4
B	82.5-86.4
B-	79.5-82.4
C+	76.5-79.4
C	72.5-76.4
C-	69.5-72.4
D+	66.5-69.4
D	62.5-66.4
D-	59.5-62.4
F	0-59.4
NCF	▼ 70%

*To receive credit in grade 6-8 Science classes students must have at least a 65% semester average.

Semester grades will be computed by counting each 9 week period at 40% and each assessment at 10%.

Science Journals

Students will need a 3-ring binder to keep select assignments in and this will act as a record of their learning. The binder will be collected each Thursday starting the second week of school. Weekly Journal grades will be for completed entries made Friday – Thursday (5 pts per entry or 25 pts per week).

PARENT COMMUNICATIONS/PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be given to students every Monday starting the second week of each marking period. Parents/guardians should review the report with their child. Please sign the report each week to indicate that you reviewed it. Signed progress reports that are returned on Tuesday will receive 5 extra credit points. Progress reports turned in from previous weeks or after Tuesday WILL NOT receive extra credit. Students/parents can check student progress in Illuminate. Note: It usually takes 24 hours for entered grades to show up in the parent/student view. If you do not remember your Illuminate password, please contact Mrs. Baker. If you have questions/concerns, please email me or give me a call.

HOMEWORK/PLANNERS

Homework will be posted on the board daily. It is the student's responsibility to record the assignment/upcoming quiz/test etc. in their planner at the start of each class. Weekly lesson topics and assignments will also be posted on the class website at the start of each week, but may be subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to place the planner in the planner box at the start of class for me to sign (if required).

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY/MAKE-UP WORK TIME LIMITS

All assignments will have a due date. Assignments and due dates will be posted on the white board daily and at the start of each week on the school web site under "Departments," "Jr High Science." On the left side of the web page click on the class name (i.e. 8th Grade Assignments).

Students will be allowed one day to make up work for every day of excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to check the "What Did I Miss" basket and their lab group regarding make-up work.

I expect all students to complete all assignments on time. Late assignments are only accepted at the discretion of the teacher where the student is found to have special extenuating circumstances.

LAB SAFETY AND PROCEDURES

Students must follow all safety rules and procedures or they will be removed from the lab. Students and parents should both read the attached "Flinn Scientific's Student Safety Contract" and return it to me by the end of the first week of school. **Students will not be allowed to participate in lab activities without a signed contract.**

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Classroom and lab procedures will be practiced to ensure student safety and learning. Students will be instructed in behavior expectations using CHAMPS (C – Conversation, H – Help, A- Activity, M – Movement, P – Participation, S – Success) for different classroom activities. A CHAMPS poster will be posted in the classroom.

Tardiness

Students are expected to be in their seats and prepared to work when the bell rings. Students that enter the classroom after the bell, should enter quietly, make an entry in the Tardy Record, quietly take their seat and begin working on the Class Starter. Students that have difficulty arriving to class on time prepared to work, will be referred to the office.

Passes

Students should take care of personal business and fill their water bottles during passing time. Students will sign out and sign in when using the restroom in the Restroom Log. Only one student may leave to use the restroom at a time.

Food/Drinks

Students may bring a water bottle to class, but it should be filled during passing time. eating/drinking/chewing gum during science lab is prohibited due to safety reasons unless the teacher specifically tells students that it is allowed as part of the lab activity.

GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS

- Follow CHAMPS
- Always try
- Do your best
- Ask questions

CLASSROOM RULES

- Arrive on time with all of your materials
- Listen/be silent during teacher instruction
- Stay on task and work from bell to bell
- Use technology appropriately
- Follow all lab safety rules and procedures

CONSEQUENCES for INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

- Step 1: The student will be given a verbal or non-verbal clue to discontinue the inappropriate behavior and/or will be redirected.
- Step 2: The student will be given a STOP card.
- Step 3: If the behavior continues,
 - The student will be asked to complete a Behavior Modification plan and they will have Silent lunch detention with the teacher for 10 minutes during the next lunch period

*Students will be given an office referral if the behavior is chronic or violates the student code of conduct

Parent/Guardian Notification

Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Please discuss this syllabus and “Flinn Scientific’s Student Safety Contract” with your child. Please make sure both a parent/guardian and student signs the safety contract. Contact me if you have any questions or concerns at 477-6313 ext. 102 or hluoto@eup.k12.mi.us.

Sign below to indicate that you understand the course expectations and return this form and “Flinn Scientific’s Student Safety Contract” to me by Friday, September 5th for 5 pts.

You may keep the syllabus for your reference or the student may place it in their 3-ring binder.

Thank you! I am excited to share my love of science with your student. – *Mrs. Luoto*

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____