

Eighth Grade Science Honors Syllabus
Teacher: Ms. Smith

Room Number: 310

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Textbook: Pearson South Carolina Interactive Science Grade 8

Materials Needed: Three-ring binder or notebook with folder, headphones, pencils, colored pencils, glue stick, index cards, lined paper, graph paper

Overview:

The Honors Eighth-Grade Science course is rigorous and requires students to conduct in depth laboratory experiments including mathematical calculations, graphing, and the mastery of qualitative and quantitative research methods. As students conduct each lab and activity, they will be held accountable for showing a higher level of thinking as they make observations, record data, analyze their results, and come to conclusions. All Honors Eighth-Grade students are required to complete a science fair project for the school science fair.

Content:

The main units studied in eighth-grade South Carolina science are:

Scientific Inquiry	Earth's Biological History
Earth's Structure and Processes	Astronomy
Forces and Motion	Waves

Instructional Goals and Pacing

Forces and Motion

Demonstrate an understanding of the effects of forces on the motion and stability of an object.

Astronomy

Demonstrate an understanding of the universe and the predictable patterns caused by Earth's movement in the solar system.

Waves

Demonstrate an understanding of the properties and behaviors of waves.

Earth Systems and Resources

Demonstrate an understanding of the processes that alter the structure of Earth and provide resources for life on the planet.

Earth's History and Diversity of Life

Demonstrate an understanding of Earth's geologic history and its diversity of life over time.

Grading (Nine Weeks Average):

Tests/Projects	40%
Quizzes	20%
Labs/Activities	20%
Homework	10%
CW	<u>10%</u>
	100%

Grading Scale:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Below 60

***The final Science Fair Project will be entered as a test grade in Q3.

Semester Average:

Nine Weeks	40%
Nine Weeks	40%
Semester Exam	20%

Year Average:

1 st Semester	50%
2 nd Semester	50%

Assessments used to measure proficiency at the honors level includes *Extended Knowledge* from the *Science Support Guide of the S.C. Academic Standards*.

Student Responsibilities:

Always have books, notebooks, homework, and pencils ready at the beginning of the class period. It is expected that all classwork and homework will be completed. Students are to take notes as given, including any examples.

Homework:

All students should record their homework and test dates in their agendas. Homework assignments, major projects, and test dates will be posted on Google Classroom and at <https://www.lexrich5.org/Page/18164>. Assignments should be ready to be checked at the beginning of class or submitted through Google Classroom.

Attendance, Make-Up Work, and Discipline:

All students are expected to behave properly in the science lab and follow the guidelines for attendance and discipline as they are described in the Behavior Code Book. Disciplinary actions will be followed as outlined in the Code Book. If a student is absent, he or she is responsible for requesting all make-up work and scheduling an afternoon to come in and complete the missed lab, activity, or test.

Attendance:

During in-person learning days, attendance will be taken in the classroom during each period. When students are participating in distance learning, documentation will need to be submitted in accordance with each classroom teacher's requirements by 11:59 p.m. Failure to submit appropriate documentation by 11:59 p.m. will result in an absence for that date.

Tutoring:

I will offer tutoring (in person and virtual) as needed. Please let me know a day in advance if you would like to schedule a Google Meet or a time to stay after school.

Concerns for Safety

The top priority for science teachers this year is safety for our students. We must follow the CDC guidelines and recommendations of wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing. At this time, we will not be able to share any science equipment, and lab work will be modified. Food will not be allowed in the classroom.

Family-friendly Guide to SC Academic Standards

<http://www.scfriendlystandards.org/>

Additional Resources to Support Instruction**SC Academic Standards and Performance Indicators**

http://ed.sc.gov/scdoe/assets/file/agency/ccr/Standards-Learning/documents/South_Carolina_Academic_Standards_and_Performance_Indicators_for_Science_2014.pdf

**It's going to be a great year!
Go FOXES!**

