

8th Grade Science- Dixie Middle School

Welcome to 8th Grade Integrated Science. This class is based on the Utah Science and Engineering Education (SEEd) Standards. The GVCs will be focusing on both Science and Engineering Practices.

The 5 GVCs that will be focused on are:

- 8.0- Students will differentiate between science & engineering practices.
- 8.1- Students will understand that all substances are a combination of small particles that interact and exchange energy.
- 8.2- Students will understand how objects can store and transfer energy within systems.
- 8.3- Students will compare ways that plants and animals obtain and use energy and model how matter cycles through an ecosystem.
- 8.4- Students will understand interactions with natural systems and resources.

The classroom expectations and requirements are detailed within this letter. Please remember that all school and Washington County School District policies will be followed as stated on the district website.

Preparation:

Students need to attend class each day with the following materials: A pen/pencil and their **science binder**. Their science binder needs to be a **1" three ring binder**.

Grading:

Students will be graded on the *Guaranteed Viable Curriculum (GVC)* as outlined in the Utah SEEd core. This means that students need to obtain mastery in each *GVC* of the Science Core. This will be done through *GVC* based quizzes, tests, and assessment labs. Students will be given quizzes on each learning target within the *GVC* and if a student does not reach mastery (80%) they will be given an intervention assignment. For a student to retake any quiz or final exam, both the intervention and applicable assignments must first be completed. The highest score students can receive on a "re-take" is 80%. The students who reach mastery the first time will be given an alternate assignment to extend their knowledge of the subject. 70% of the final grade will be from quizzes, tests, and performance labs (assessments) and 30% will be from classwork, participation, labs, projects, starters, and activities (coursework). Students will turn in their binder with coursework at mid term and end of term.

Honors Component:

Each quarter students will be given the opportunity to earn Honors Credit for science. Students will be given a project to complete at home. If the student achieves mastery on the project (80%) or above, the student's transcript will be changed to say "8th grade Honors Science." This project is completely optional. Students who would like to be selected for Honors Biology in 9th grade must complete the honors component all 4 quarters.

Late Work:

Assignments are due on the date the teacher sets, after that time they will be considered late. Late work is subject to a 20% deduction. Specific exceptions/extensions will be announced in class. Late work only accepted until the last week of each mid-term and quarter.

Classroom Behavior Expectations:

All School and District rules will be followed. In addition, the classroom rules are:

- a. Be on time, on task and prepared to learn.
- b. Be responsible for your own learning.
- c. Respect the teacher, classroom and other students.
- d. Personal electronics are for Educational Purposes only (with permission)

Rewards

- Teacher Praise
- Class or School recognition
- Eagle Cards

Consequences

- Warning (verbal or visual cue given to student)
- Student-Teacher discussion
- Parent contact

***Severe Disruption will result in the student being sent to the office. Examples of severe disruptions are fighting, defiance, and unsafe acts.

Videos:

Videos or clips from videos will be shown on occasion in the classroom and could have a PG- 13 rating. If this is a concern, please comment below.

Website:

Our science department has a website that has links to all coursework as well as pictures and videos of labs we do in class. We occasionally post pictures of students. If this is a concern, please comment below.

Allergies:

Food will be used to model some of our science concepts. This food may be allowed to be consumed by students. If your student has a food allergy, please comment below.

Laboratory Safety:

Safety in the science laboratory is the #1 priority for students, teachers and parents. To ensure a safe science classroom, the students will be taught lab safety. Students are required to pass a lab safety quiz as well as agree to the rules in the Science Lab Safety Contract. The contract is on our science website (dixiemiddlescience.weebly.com) under 8th grade science and "general information." Please read through the contract with your student. By signing this disclosure, you agree to follow these rules and procedures in the science laboratory. Students will not be allowed to enter the science laboratory without this disclosure signed.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your student's teacher.

Please feel free to contact us by email at any time.

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joy.white@washk12.org

8th Grade Science Website: dixiemiddlescience.weebly.com

***Please sign and return this disclosure. Additional copies may be obtained at the above website.

Student Name (printed) _____ Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Comments:
