

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 Guaranteed Viable Curriculum (GVC) 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 GVC as outlined in the Utah SEEd core. This means that students need to obtain proficiency in each GVC of the Science Core. This will be done through GVC based quizzes and tests. Students will be given quizzes on each learning target (specific part of the GVC). If a student is not proficient (80%) they will be given an intervention assignment. For a student to retake any quiz, both the intervention and applicable assignments must first be completed. The student's grade will be an average of the original quiz score and any additional retakes. Students who are proficient the first time will be given an alternate assignment to extend their knowledge of the subject. There are no retakes on GVC tests. 70% of the final grade will be from quizzes and tests (assessments) and 30% will be from assignments, labs, projects, starters, and activities (classwork). Students will turn in their binder with classwork at mid term and end of term. Starters will be turned in when complete.

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.

End of Year Testing: Students will be given an end of year final on all five GVCs of the 8th grade science SEEd core at the end of the school year. Students who pass the state test (formerly SAGE) with a 3 or 4, can use that score to replace the end of year final score and will not have to take the test.

Late Work: Classwork and honors projects 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
- Soar 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.

Chromebook Rules: Chromebooks are for educational purposes only. Visit only websites assigned by teacher (no games, social media, etc.). Staff may check Chromebook history at any time.

Hall Pass: Students will be given 6 hall passes per semester. Hall passes may be used after the first 20 minutes of class. Unused hall passes may be turned in for a reward at the end each semester.

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: dixiemiddlescience.weebly.com

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

Student Name (printed) _____ Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Comments:
