

Mrs. Ahlsen

8th Grade Science Course Requirements



Introduction and Course Overview

Hello and welcome to 8th Grade general Science! In 8th grade Science we will be studying the fascinating processes that shape the natural environment. It includes the study of Meteorology (weather), Geology (earth), Astronomy (space), Oceanography, and the interactions between these fields. The Earth is constantly changing, and the study of Science helps us to understand how these changes occur, and how humans both affect, and are affected by them. Critical analysis and understanding of the Earth system is essential if we are to make responsible decisions regarding how we live on our planet. What we learn this year in 8th grade science will help deepen our understanding about our home; the Earth!

| Grading policy | Percentage of grade |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Exams | 55% |
| Labs/ quizzes | 35% |
| Homework / preparation | 10% |
| Total | 100% |

1. **Exams and Quizzes** – Tests and quizzes will generally consist of multiple choice, short answer, extended response questions and lab skills task. They are designed to test your understanding and prepare you for the Regents exam. This approach helps benefit both the student and the teacher by keeping you informed of your ongoing progress.
2. **Labs**- Labs give students the opportunity to test the concepts covered in class using scientific methods. They will generally be hands-on, inquiry based activities. All students are expected to follow all written and oral safety instructions for EVERY lab. Labs must meet quality guidelines in order to be accepted for grading. All discussion questions must be answered in complete sentences, and all answers must be legible.
3. **Class Participation**
 - *Be prepared*- bring required materials to class every day and have homework ready to be checked at the beginning of the period when it is due.
 - *Group work*- Collaboration is an important element in both the practice of science and in many workplace environments. It is a skill that we will work on for the duration of this course.
 - *Class discussion and conduct*- this means that you participate in the class by asking and answering questions, and contributing to the classroom conversation. You must conduct yourself in a manner that is appropriate to the educational setting of our classroom at all times.
4. **Homework**- Homework is essential to ensure that material learned during class is retained, and helps the student to measure their understanding of the coursework. Doing homework consistently will help you considerably! Homework is due at the beginning of class for full credit. *Late homework will not receive full credit.*

Required materials: a *specific* section for 8th Grade General Science in a multi subject binder (can be shared with AM or PM classes) and a folder.

Classroom rules and procedures:

1. Respect all members of the classroom. This means using appropriate language, raising your hand to speak, and attentively listening when the teacher is talking. This also means that you are actively listening to the thoughts, discussions and questions of your peers.
2. Create a positive classroom environment that fosters learning.
3. Check the board for important information: homework, due dates, tests, etc.
4. Be prepared and be responsible. Be sure to have your assignments, notebook, pen, pencil, planner and any tools necessary for success.

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment

Parents and Guardians – *Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's education or anything stated above, please feel free to contact me via email at vahlsen@pobschools.org*

Cooperation between everyone involved in the student's education is important for success. For this reason, I plan on contacting parents/guardians regularly to inform them of progress or any behavior issues. Students, please sign below to indicate you have read and understand the policies of my classroom. Please have a parent or guardian sign below after they have read it.

Student Name Print: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Date _____