

Eighth Grade Science

My goal for this year is to present a curriculum that not only teaches basic scientific concepts, but also instills a desire to explore science and enjoy the process of learning.

You will have science on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If you have questions or need help, my office hours are immediately after school, for 20 minutes, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Contact Information

I can be reached by email at gstern@dsj.org (students only: gstern@smsgilroy.org). I can also be reached by phone at 408-842-2827, ext. 125. Please remember that I am not on campus on Monday or Friday. I am not available by email or phone, Friday through Monday or during holidays.

General information, science standards, class procedures, class homework, lab forms and homework handouts can be found on the Jr. High Science web page. As projects are assigned, project information will also be posted. To access this web page, go to the 8th grade class website and click on Jr. High Science in the menu column or go directly to the website by typing: <http://jrhighsci.weebly.com>.

Daily science homework will not be posted on this web page. Daily science homework is found only on the 8th grade class daily homework page.

Labs (grade weight 25%)

Lab reports are treated as a practical exam in my overall grade assessment. Therefore, **missing labs greatly impact a student's grade.** If a student has a problem in handing in their lab report, the student should talk to me immediately, prior to the lab's due date, to determine what should be done.

Lab reports (practical exams) are due the week following our lab (usually on a Wednesday, unless otherwise noted). Lab reports (practical exams) will be accepted one day after the due date, for partial credit. A grade of "0" will be assigned to any lab write up that is not handed in within the assigned date timeline. (Exception: absence, see absence policy).

Lab reports (practical exams) should be typed and follow the lab format (see web page). To receive full credit for lab reports that are not typed, a note, signed by a parent, must be included with the hand written lab report on the day it is due. If you are unable to type your lab report, you may send it via Google Docs, only if you have received prior permission from me to do so and only if a note, signed by a parent (not sent via email) is provided. **If you are absent for a lab, please be sure to contact me upon your return, as you are still required to turn in a lab report.**

Class activity reports (grade weight 8%)

Class activity reports are not lab reports. They are responses to questions based on an activity done in the classroom used to reinforce a particular concept. These reports are required to be typed but do not require the formal lab format of a lab report. These reports are usually due the following day after the activity has been performed (due date will be posted on 8th grade class daily homework page) and can be turned in late for partial credit as long as they are marked late/missing on Power School grade website.

Projects (grade weight 18%)

Projects will be assigned every trimester. Projects may be used to demonstrate mastery of the

material we are covering or as a means for the students to experience the process of discovery that is science. Requirements for projects, due date and method of grading (grade rubric) will be explained in the classroom, when the project is assigned and posted on the class daily homework page under Jr. High Science and on the Jr. High Science web page. Projects are due on the date assigned.

Homework Quizzes (grade weight 14%)

I believe homework should help student's practice and review concepts being studied in the classroom. Homework is to be completed by the date assigned.

Each Thursday there will be a quiz on the homework/classwork that was assigned during the week. Students who routinely have a problem with passing these quizzes, may be required to meet with me after school, during my office hours, until the weekly quiz score improves. Students that are absent for this weekly quiz will be required to make up the missing quiz. Following an absence and upon their return to school, students should talk with me, as soon as possible, to arrange a time to take the missing quiz. Most makeup quizzes will be held on Thursday at recess.

Tests (grade weight 25%)

Tests will be announced at least one week in advance. Students should review material prior to the test so that questions or confusion regarding the material can be answered and cleared up.

Following an absence and upon their return to school, students should talk with me to arrange a time to take the missing test/quiz. Make up tests, due to absence, will usually be given during the recess hour on Tuesday or Thursday. **All missing work must be handed in prior to the test on that material in order to receive credit.**

Absence

The day you return to school, following an absence, you should contact me regarding the work missed. You will have an equal number of days to make up your missing work, including tests and labs, as you were absent. (Ex. If you miss two days of science, you have two science days to make up what you missed). Unless you have made special arrangements with me, work that is not completed within this time will receive a zero. If you have any questions regarding the material you missed, talk to me immediately, do not wait until the work is due and then say, "I didn't understand". Class handouts will be placed in the 8th grade plastic envelope, located on the bulletin board in the science lab and will also be posted on the class daily homework page under Jr. High Science as well as be available on my Jr. High Science webpage, for at least one week following the day it is due.

Assessment

Grades are weighted in two ways: 1) by the total amount of points the assignment/test/quiz/project is worth (which will vary) and 2) by the weight assigned to each area being graded.

The typical weight of each area is as follows:

Projects 18%

Practical Exam (Lab reports) 25%

Concept-based Exam 25%

Quizzes 14%

Activity/classwork 8%

Class Participation 10%

It is critical that the students hand in their lab reports (practical exam), complete and on time, as they are weighted equally to tests.

Extra Credit

Although I occasionally will give the opportunity for extra points to be earned on some assignments, tests and quizzes, generally speaking, I do not allow extra credit to be done. This is because I want your grade to reflect your mastery of the material required by California State Standards/NGSS. If the opportunity for other extra credit is allowed, it will be announced well in advance and posted on my web page, so students can take advantage of the opportunity.

A STUDENT MAY NOT RECEIVE EXTRA CREDIT IF THEY HAVE MISSING OR INCOMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS, PROJECTS OR LAB REPORTS.