

# **Science 8**

## **Syllabus**

### **2023-2024**



Miss Ullman  
Room 265  
jullman@alcsny.org  
716-375-6600 ext. 2265

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

8th Grade Physical Science will expand on the skills and knowledge learned in 6th and 7th grades. This course will focus primarily on the following: Reproduction, Evolution, Astronomy, Forces and Motion, and Waves with a Grade 5-8 review for the NYSED Grade 8 Intermediate Level-Science Test. This test usually occurs in June. Content knowledge is applied using the scientific method to solve problems, design, and constructing models. Units are done with a hands-on approach, when possible, through lab exercises and other hands-on activities.

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

### **RESPECT**

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

### **PRESENCE**

### **HONESTY**

**All students will be expected to strive for personal excellence and achieve at their highest level. This is the grade level before high school and I expect students to behave at that high standard. There are five basic rules that will be followed in the classroom:**

- 1. Be prepared and on time to class**
- 2. Listen and follow the instructions the first time they are given**
- 3. Follow all the classroom procedures**
- 4. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself**
- 5. Be respectful to yourself and those around you**

**Students are also expected to listen to all verbal and written instructions given to them in the classroom as well as the lab environment. Failure to meet these expectations will result in consequences in the classroom.**

## **SCIENCE BINDER**

Students will complete assignments in their binder. This is a way to monitor participation, preparedness and reflection of learned material. These binders will house all their vocabulary, class notes, lab notes, homework/classwork, quizzes, tests, and corrections. Students should have five tabs, filler paper, and index cards with them in their binders.

Each week students will be given a “Do Now” worksheet to complete that will have space to do the daily bell ringer or what I call a “Do Now”. This worksheet will live in the front of the binders each week. I will

also be doing binder checks on a bi-weekly schedule (every two weeks). They will receive a grade based on having all the sections, work dated, well-organized notes, and overall neatness. This will happen on Fridays and students will leave the binders in the classroom to be checked and retrieved on Monday.

If a student is absent, they are still responsible for vocabulary, missed notes, and assignments.

## COURSE WORK

### Grading Policy

Each quarter grade consists of grades accumulated from four different categories. Each category is weighted to receive a final percent.

Category	% of Final Grade
Tests and Projects	40
Quizzes/Labs	25
Homework/Classwork	20
Participation/Binder checks	15

### Late Policy

My late policy is flexible, but you need to let me know **in advance if something is preventing you from finishing your assignments!** Late homework/classwork is accepted, however, any assignment turned in more than 3 days late will only be eligible for a maximum grade of 50%. Labs will have specific due dates and will lose 10% for each day that they are late. Points lost for being late cannot be corrected to make up points and no extra credit will be offered.

### School Attendance & Make-Up Work

It is the expectation that students strive for perfect attendance. If a student is absent, it is **their responsibility** to see the teacher for make-up work on the day they return to school. Missed work should be completed by the same number of days as you were absent. For example, if you missed two science classes then once you return to class, you have two days to make up the work. Tests need to be made up ASAP or they will remain a zero in the grade book. As said in the school code of conduct, three times after a student has been marked tardy, they will be written up and receive a detention. If a student is late, they need to come into the room quietly and get to work.

# CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

**Disciplinary Policy & Procedures:** It is my job, as a teacher, to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment in which all students can learn. Disruptive, inappropriate, and disrespectful behaviors affect everyone in class and make it difficult to learn and teach. All students are expected to abide by the rules and guidelines as set by the Allegany-Limestone School District's Student Handbook. If any student chooses to not follow those rules and guidelines, the following protocol will be used:

**1st: Name on board and warning**

**2nd: One check, stay after class that day**

**3rd: Two checks, 1 lunch detention that day**

**4th: Three checks, Disciplinary Referral, Call home**

**5th: Sent to office, Disciplinary Referral, Call home**

**Severe Disruption: Student will be sent immediately to the office, DR written, Call home**

**Names and checks cleared afterschool Thursday**

*Clarification statements for the following:*

*Check mark system: This system will be used to penalize the student without stopping the lesson. This system is to ensure that students understand that there are consequences to their actions no matter how big or how small. Each Thursday, I will erase the checkmarks and names so students will have a clean slate for the next week. This idea is not to hold a grudge against a student, this is to show that their actions do have an impact and that this impact can carry over day by day just like in the real world.*

*Lunch Detentions: This is where a student will eat their lunch in my room with the same protocols as an after-school detention; no talking. Once they are done with their lunch, I will escort them to the lunch room to dump their tray and they will come back to my classroom to reflect on what they did and how they can make it right, using restorative practice strategies. Failure to show up to a lunch detention will result in a Disciplinary Referral being written and a call home.*

**Rules for tests and quizzes:**

- 1) No talking during the test/quiz
- 2) No cell phone or other communication devices on your person
- 3) Once finished, quietly wait until quiz/test is collected

**Failure to abide by these rules will give the student an automatic zero and they will have to take a different version of the exam at another time (study hall, lunch, or after school).**

## LABORATORY EXPECTATIONS

Students will be performing many labs in this classroom to prepare them for their New York State assessment at the end of the year. Lab safety is to be taken very seriously in the science classroom. There are many potential hazards when using lab equipment improperly. All students and their parent/guardian must sign the lab safety contract in order to ensure safety in the classroom. This is a promise that the student will uphold the rules given to them both written and verbal. The safety contract will be sent home and needs to be brought back to me. Below is a reminder of these rules.

### *Before the investigation:*

- *Listen carefully to your teacher's instructions, and follow any steps recommended when preparing the activity.*
- *Use only those materials or chemicals needed for the investigation.*
- *Know the location of emergency equipment, such as a fire extinguisher, fire blanket, and eyewash station.*
- *Tie back or remove dangling or bulky items, such as long hair, jewelry, sleeves, jackets, and bags. Do not wear open-toed shoes in the science lab.*
- *Tell your teacher if you wear contact lenses or have allergies, injuries, or any other medical conditions that may affect your ability to perform lab safely.*
- *Make sure both the work surface and floor in your work area are clear of any books, backpacks, purses, or any other unnecessary materials.*

### *During the investigation:*

- *Follow all written and spoken instructions.*
- *Read the activity procedure carefully.*
- *Don't eat, drink, chew gum, or apply cosmetics in the lab area.*
- *Wear chemical splash goggles when using chemicals.*
- *Do not wear contact lenses when using chemicals. If your doctor says you must wear them, notify your teacher before conducting any activity involving chemicals.*
- *Read all labels on chemical bottles, and be sure you are using the correct chemical.*
- *Keep all chemical containers closed when not in use.*
- *Do not touch, taste, or smell any chemical unless you are instructed to do so by your teacher.*
- *Mix chemicals only as directed.*
- *Use caution when working with hot plates, hot liquids, and electrical equipment.*
- *Follow all directions when working with live organisms or microbial cultures.*

- *Be mature and cautious and don't engage in horseplay.*
- *Report any accidents to your teacher immediately.*
- *Not sure what to do? Ask!*

*After the investigation:*

- *Dispose of all materials as instructed by your teacher.*
- *Clean up your work area, wash out trays, replace bottle caps securely, and follow any special instructions.*
- *Return equipment to its proper place.*

Additional guidelines listed here

***Electric Safety Guidelines:***

- 1) Remove all conductive or metallic jewelry before working with electricity*
- 2) Prevent trip and fall hazards by placing wires away from places where students or the instructor may be walking*
- 3) When using batteries, always inspect them first for cracks or leaking. Let the instructor know if anything seems strange with the batteries*
- 4) Inspect your circuit before you plug in your electrical source. Ask your instructor before you plug in your circuit. We want to prevent short circuits or unsafe circuits.*

***Emergency procedures:***

- 1) In case of a fire, know where the fire blanket, fire extinguisher, and the emergency gas shut off switch is and know how to use them*
- 2) Know the locations of all the exits in the lab and building*
- 3) Know the location of the phone for emergencies*
- 4) In case of a chemical spill or chemical related incident, know where the eye wash, emergency shower, and first aid kit is and how to use them*

**Failure to uphold these rules will result in disciplinary action and removal of student from the lab exercise. The lab will be an automatic zero in the gradebook, and they will need to retake the lab at another time or after school.**

*\*You will be completing three remaining NYS required labs this year to qualify for the NYS 8<sup>th</sup> grade assessment and those labs will be made up regardless if the student receives a grade or not.*

Please remove this page from the syllabus and return to Miss Ullman. Thank you! 😊

**I will strive to keep you aware of your child's progress in my class throughout the year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Email is best for the timeliest response:**

[jullman@alcsny.org](mailto:jullman@alcsny.org)

**I am looking forward to a great year!**

I \_\_\_\_\_, hereby read, understand, and will follow the guidelines and emergency procedures that were given to me. I also agree to abide by these safety guidelines and to follow all other written and verbal instructions given in class. If I break these guidelines, I know there will be consequences. If one or more of these rules are broken, I may be removed from the lab and will need to complete the lab another time. I also understand all of the rules that are laid out in the syllabus.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian contact information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please share any information you would like with me: (Best time to call, anything I should be aware of, or how I can best help your child succeed).

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