

8th Grade - Integrated Sciences

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Parents/Guardians, please read carefully and contact me with any concerns or questions.

What we will learn in 8th grade (Essential State Standards):



ESS 8.0 - Science & Engineering - Students will differentiate between Science and Engineering practices.



ESS 8.1 - Chemistry - Students will understand that all substances are a combination of small particles that interact and exchange energy.



ESS 8.2 - Physical Systems - Students will understand how objects can store and transfer energy within a system.



ESS 8.3 - Life Systems - Students will compare ways that plants and animals obtain and use energy and model how matter cycles through an ecosystem.



ESS 8.4 - Natural Systems - Students will understand interactions with natural systems and resources.

Respect and Responsibility for the Class Rule

There is only ONE rule for this classroom:

JUST DON'T CAUSE A PROBLEM!

Respect and Responsibility in the Classroom

One of the characteristics of Dixie Middle School is **RESPECT**. Please make sure you are respectful and aware of those around you.

Lifelong success often depends on learning to make responsible choices. I expect each student to be prepared and ready to do his/her best when in class.

There are many materials provided for students to use. Examples of these materials are: lab supplies, chromebooks, colored pencils, scissors, and other items for different learning activities. Students are expected to treat each of these materials with respect. Meaning, they should not destroy them, take them, etc. All supplies are expected to be used, but not intentionally abused.

Examples of showing respect that students can demonstrate are:

- a. Using lab supplies as they are intended to be used.
- b. Neatly placing Chromebooks in the correct slot in the computer cart and plugging them in.
- c. Using provided colored pencils to complete assignments and returning them to the correct container in good condition.
- d. Informing the teacher if one of the materials for a lab is not working or broken so it can be replaced.
- e. Drawing on a piece of paper and not on the classroom or lab tables.
- f. Asking to borrow another student's pencil and returning it in the same good condition it was borrowed.

This list provides a few examples, but there are many other ways students can respect the classroom, the teachers, other students, and the materials used to complete learning activities.

If a student violates classroom respect expectations, the following progressive steps will apply:

1st offense: The Student will be reminded of the rule and expectation and will sign the behavior binder.

2nd offense: The Student will sign the behavior binder and the teacher will make a T-1 entry in the computer.

3rd offense: The Student will sign the behavior binder, the teacher will make a T-2 entry in the computer and be assigned lunch recovery, along with an email to contact the parent.

4th offense: The Student will sign the behavior binder and the teacher will make a T-3 entry in the computer, which is an office referral.

If a student continues to choose not to follow this expectation, the student will be removed from the classroom and will not be allowed to return until a parent meeting has occurred and a plan has been developed.

Respect and Responsibility in the Science Lab

Safety in the science laboratory is the #1 priority for students, teachers, and parents. A signed lab safety contract is required for all students to participate in labs. Students who choose to be unsafe in the lab will be asked to complete alternative assignments in the classroom or on the computer. No food or drink is allowed in the science lab (this includes gum). Students are also expected to dress appropriately for labs. Students exposing too much skin are at a higher risk of injury and will not be allowed to participate in the lab. Please follow all standard dress code policies.

***For safety purposes, please notify the teacher of any food allergies.

Respect and Responsibility with Electronic Devices

The Dixie Middle School "Personal Electronic Device" (PED) policy will be enforced (no cell phones, earbuds, gaming devices, smart watches, etc. allowed during class time). Students will be required to leave these devices in an assigned number pocket chart at the front of the room as they enter class where they will remain until the students leave class. Electronic devices that are found on a person will be sent to the front office and the following actions will be taken:

First offense - the device(s) will be confiscated and may be picked up from the office by the student at the end of the school day.

Second offense - the device(s) will be confiscated and must be picked up from the office by a parent/guardian at the end of the school day.

Third offense - the device(s) will be confiscated and must be picked up from the school by a parent/guardian. A conference with an administrator will be held where disciplinary actions may be taken. Actions may include a child being suspended or sent to the Focus Center for a remainder of time if the situation cannot be resolved.

Some students will be tempted to take a device that does not belong to them. This is not being respectful and is also stealing (stealing is not tolerated). If a student violates this expectation, the following progressive steps will apply:

1st offense - T-3 referral to the office along with a conference with the parent, student, school resource officer, and school administration.

Additional offenses - may result in an immediate suspension of not less than three days nor more than ten days.

Many may be concerned about this expectation for Personal Electronic Devices. Research about the effects cell phones have in the classroom show one common outcome; Students' grades are harmed. With constant distractions of texts, notifications, and calls during class negatively affecting grades.

Science Grading

70% is based on assessment

30% is based on coursework

A (93-100)

A- (90-92)

B+ (87-89)

B (83-86)

B- (80-82)

C+ (77-79)

C (73-76)

C- (70-72)

D+ (67-69)

D (63-66)

D- (60-62)

F (0-59)

Late work

Work must be completed and submitted on time. Late work will be accepted for a 30%-point deduction until midterm week. At mid-term all assignments for the first half of the quarter will lock and can no longer be made up.

Absences

Students, whether excused or not excused, are responsible to complete all work from the days not in class. An excused absence does **NOT** mean you are excused from the assignments completed that day. It does mean that a parent/guardian is aware the student is not in class.

Quizzes/Assessments

Quizzes and other forms of assessment will be given to check for understanding. There are no quiz retakes, but a student may complete a quiz fix to earn partial, 50%, of the points back for the quiz. Keep in mind that a grade of 100% is reserved for the first attempt. All assessments need to be taken in the Science classroom.

Cheating

Cheating cheats you out of your own education. Cheating does not help you learn, and you are here to learn. Cheating does not demonstrate respect or responsibility. The minimum consequence for cheating will be a zero (for all parties involved) on that assignment. Assignments cannot be made up, and assessments will be an average of the retake and the original zero received.

Unit Test

At the end of each unit (quarter) a summative multiple-choice test will be given. There are no quiz fixes or retakes on unit tests. Students are given tools to help them prepare and are allowed to use their Science Binder to help them. Students are responsible for making sure they use all the tools provided to be successful on the test.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will be provided for all students. One assignment that was a graded assignment for all students will be converted to extra credit at the end of each quarter. This is a positive consequence for students who are being responsible and completing assignments and turning them in on time.

Videos

Videos or clips from videos will be shown on occasion in the classroom and could have a PG-13 rating. For example, the movie "Dante's Peak" is Pg-13. In one of the lessons, we observe roughly a 3 minute segment of the movie to discuss volcanic eruptions. If this is a concern, please email your teacher.

End of Year Test

Students will be given an End of Year Final on **ALL** Essential Standards of the 8th grade Science core. There are no retakes or fixes on the End of Year Test.

Respect and Responsibility with the Hall Pass

Hall Passes in my class reflect the high value I place on instructional minutes. During the class period, students should remain in class. The five minutes provided during the passing period are to be used for going to the bathroom, getting a drink, visiting friends, using electronic devices, and using lockers on the way to class. Hall passes may not be used during the first or last ten minutes of class. If a student is tardy to class, there should not be a reason to leave the room later. Before leaving class, students will need to check in and out with me using the SmartPass hall pass. The hall pass only grants one student out of class at a time. Misuse of the hall pass sign and goofing off in the hall can result in the loss of all hall passes.

Tardy Policy

Students are expected to be in assigned seats with all materials when the final bell rings. If this expectation is not met, students will be marked tardy.

Tardies will be handled in the progressive steps as per the Dixie Middle School Handbook:

When a student reaches **3** tardies in science - That Student will be assigned lunch recovery.

When a student is tardy to one class by an excessive amount (20 minutes or more) of time as determined by the teacher, the student will be assigned to lunch recovery.

For further steps see the Dixie Middle School Handbook.

Respect and Responsibility as a Dixie Middle School Student

Students need to make sure they are on time and prepared and showing up, ready to learn every day. For science, this means a student has a Science Binder, something to write with (pen or pencil), and is willing to participate in the daily activities. Students who simply choose to show up and be respectful and responsible are very successful in the class. The following are ways a student demonstrates respect and responsibility:

1. Arrive on time; Be ready to work.
2. Come prepared with all necessary materials.
3. Turn in clean, legible assignments on time.
4. Avoid disrupting the teaching and learning environment.
5. Be respectful of others.
6. Follow teacher instructions and obey classroom rules.

Pro-Tips for Success in the Science Classroom

- **DONT MISS CLASS!**

The class covers science concepts during every class (INCLUDING FRIDAYS). Missing class will affect your grade as it is easy to get behind and difficult to catch up.

- **DO ASSIGNMENTS WELL AND ON TIME!**

Every day builds on the information given the day before. If you keep up with the daily assignments, you will keep up with the class.

- **BE PROACTIVE AND WILLING TO WORK HARD!**

If you're not willing to put in the work, you should not expect to succeed. It's really that simple. Science is a skill that requires practice, just like most other things. (Music, dance, sports, etc.)

- **CHECK CANVAS and POWERSCHOOL!**

Most of the questions I get from students and parents can be answered simply by looking at PowerSchool. Look for the assignments classified as missing or late and complete them.