



Course Syllabus and Disclosure Statement

8th Grade Integrated Science

2011 - 2012

Room 202

Teacher: Jeni White
jeni@slarts.org

Text: We have classroom sets of many high-quality science series books. They will NOT be available to take home. Thus, you are responsible for using class time wisely!

Supplies:

- Calculator
- Pen or pencil, paper
- Section of your 3-ring binder

Course Description:

The themes for this course are **change** and **energy**. We will be studying the relationship between energy and changes of matter, and the processes involved. We will learn to differentiate chemical vs. physical changes, and will relate these to ongoing changes in the Earth's structure and in living organisms. We will also observe, measure, and predict forces of motion and gravity.



Course Goals. Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate through coursework the principles of scientific methodology
- Create, use, and interpret data graphically
- Communicate clearly and appropriately the results of investigations, both orally and in writing
- Understand the relationships between energy and changes in matter, and understand the underlying principles of force and motion
- Express an appreciation for the significance of science to our daily lives
- Work cooperatively to identify and solve problems systematically

Class Expectations:

The Obvious:

- Show respect and care to all classmates, the teacher, and school property.
- Be on time and attend class on a regular basis.
- Participate enthusiastically in all classroom activities.
- Be prepared for class with paper, pencil/pen, science binder and journal, and a brain switched to 'on'.
- Personal electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, games, etc.) are strictly prohibited. If I see them, I will confiscate.
- Communication: if you are having any problems of any nature, communicate them! I hope you will find that I can be sensitive, open-minded, and discreet. I want you to succeed, and am willing to work with you to make sure that happens.
- I will give my best effort to the class, and will challenge you. I know that you will meet the challenge if you, too, give your best effort to the class.



Lab Safety:

You will receive a lab safety contract, separate from this document. Labs are an integral part of this course. You will be assessed on your understanding of lab safety rules, and must pass the assessment with 100% before you can participate in labs. Of course, you may retake the assessment until a perfect score is achieved.

Consumables:

- Drinks: non-flavored water is the only beverage permitted in the classroom. Spills are inevitable, and a sticky mess is not allowed.
- Food: NEVER in a science room, unless it is provided by me. You never know what chemicals or creepy crawlies have been on the tables before your arrival.
- Gum: Nope. End of discussion.



Make-up work, extra credit, late assignments:

Make-up work: For each day absent, you have two days to make up the missed assignments without penalty.

Extra credit: Do not come to me to ask for extra credit work. I may occasionally offer extra credit projects (with deadlines). It is up to you to take advantage of these opportunities when they exist.

Late assignments: Grades for late assignments will be deducted by 10% to 30%, and more if it becomes a chronic problem. After two weeks, a 0 will be recorded, and you will not be able to make up the assignment.

Course Timeline (tentative, subject to change)

Term Unit of Study

	Term 1 Ecology: photosynthesis, ecosystems and relationships among organisms, food webs, human impact on our environment
Term 2	Geology: geologic time, fossils, plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes, rock cycle, identifying rocks and minerals
	Term 3 Chemical and Physical Properties and Changes
	Term 4 Physics, simple machines, Newton's Laws of Motion

Student Evaluation:

Mastery of Content:

50% Exams and Major Projects
50% Labs, classroom activities,
and homework

CAB and PEPR grades will be assigned according to school policy.

Grade Performance Standard

5. Academically superior performance. Goes above and beyond the norm. Is attentive, listens carefully, does high quality work in a timely manner, and follows directions. Participates cooperatively in all classroom activities. Has excellent work habits, and demonstrates mastery of subject. Likely demonstrates ability to apply course material in diverse contexts, to analyze information from multiple perspectives, and to engage others in the learning process.
4. Does quality work in a timely manner, and follows directions well. Participates in most classroom discussions, and cooperates well on classroom projects. Shows good work habits, and demonstrates competent knowledge of subject material. Shows ability to interpret and apply course material and knowledge.
3. Listens most of the time and participates in classroom discussions sometimes. Participates cooperatively in classroom projects most of the time. Work habits could be improved, and some assignments may be incomplete or late. Demonstrates fair knowledge of subject material and ability to explain content learned, but also shows room for improvement.
2. Pays attention and participates in classroom discussions on a limited basis. Participates poorly in classroom projects. Many assignments may be incomplete, late, or missing. Knowledge of subject material is below expectations, and student is making a limited effort to succeed.
1. Student has demonstrated little, if any, effort in this course. Knowledge of subject material is at and unacceptable level. Student participates poorly in classroom activities, and is often uncooperative with the teacher and/or classmates.



Please sign and return this section of the 8th Grade Science Syllabus and Disclosure Statement.

I have read and understood the 8th Grade Integrated Science Syllabus and Disclosure Statement. If any sections are unclear to me, or if I have concerns about any part of this document, I will discuss them with Ms. Jeni White.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Student name (Print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____