

SCIENCE

2016-2017
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McDougle Middle School

Welcome! Science is very much a hands-on collaborative subject. We will be doing a lot of activities and labs in groups. In Science Class, students will design and conduct investigations, analyze data, and use models, simulations, and appropriate technologies and information systems.

What is Science? "Science is really a way of looking at the world-REALLY looking-and then coming up with explanations for why things are as they are. An explanation is accepted as a good scientific explanation if it helps scientists correctly predict how nature will behave in the future." (taken from NASA)

Why should everyone study science?

- Science helps people understand and appreciate our world.
- Science provides a healthy dose of skepticism.
- Science promotes strong communication skills and teaches about conflict management and collaboration.
- Science teaches strong research skills.

What are the characteristics of authentic science?

- The world is understandable.
- Scientific ideas are subject to change.
- Scientific knowledge is durable.
- Science cannot provide complete answers to all questions.
- Science demands evidence.
- Science is a blend of logic and imagination.
- Science explains and predicts, but is not authoritarian.
- Science is a complex social activity.

I. Work Policy:

School Planner: Students are expected to record homework assignments at the beginning of class each day in their school planners.


Absent from Class: *You are responsible for any work missed when absent.* To make up assignments when absent, first check your teacher's website and/or classmates to see if you can complete the assignment(s) before returning to class. **Consult with your teacher the day you return to arrange due dates.**

Late Work: Late work will only be accepted for full credit as a result of an excused absence. All other late work will face a 10 point deduction, and will only be accepted within 1 week after the due date.

Grading Scale

Percentage	Letter Grade
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and below	F

II. Classroom Expectations

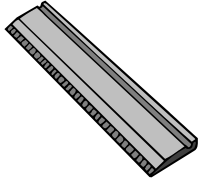
1. **Please respect people and property!** 
2. Bring your Mustang pride and a smile! ☺
3. You will always be prepared for class with a mechanical pencil, planner, journal, science binder, and a reading book.
4. No eating or drinking in class.
5. We expect you to use the bathroom facilities between classes. In an emergency, you will be allowed to use the restroom during the class period. Please choose an appropriate time such as when you are working individually.
6. You will be respectful and courteous to substitute teachers. Remember that your behavior is a reflection of not only yourselves, but also of your teacher, school, and community.

III. Grading Procedure:

- Assignments will be given in the following areas: warm ups, homework, science journal, classwork, quizzes, lab work, tests, and projects.
- Your grade will be determined in the following way: Projects/Labs (30%), Tests (30%), Quizzes (30%), and Homework/Warm Ups (10%). Report cards are distributed every nine weeks.
- Grades will be posted on the Power School website. Expect at least a 1 week delay from the time you complete an assignment to the time it appears on the online grade book.



IV. Science Topics



General

Scientific Method
Nature of Science
Graphing
Science safety
Technology

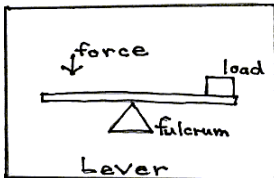
Meteorology

Atmosphere
Cycles of Matter
Weather
Human Stewardship



Physics

Motion
Forces
Simple Machines
Energy Transfer



Biology/Genetics

Cells-organelles
Human Anatomy
Pedigrees
Punnett Squares



- A Science Journal is a tool students use to make connections prior to new learning, to revise their thinking, and to deepen their understandings of the world around them. It is the culmination of a student's work throughout the year that shows both the content learned and the reflective knowledge gained.

VI. Scholarly Integrity

It is expected that the work students do will be their own, whether on a test, homework, lab report, etc. When students collaborate in groups, they are expected to discuss ideas and help each other to clarify their understanding of the concepts. Students may collect data together on labs, but all written answers should be the original thoughts of the student that reflect his/her individual understanding and knowledge. Copying someone else's work is called **cheating** and is not allowed. Any instances of cheating will result in an immediate grade of zero (0) for that assignment work.

We strongly believe that all students are capable of high achievement and learn best when actively involved. We will provide many opportunities for you to work in group settings as well as individually. Cooperative and self-directed learning will be encouraged and supported.

We are here to help you. Please let us know how we can best support you this year in science.

V. Notebook:

You will be expected to keep a Science Journal and a Science Binder.



- The Science Journal will be a composition notebook, and the Science Binder will be a section of your school binder. It is important to keep both of these neat and organized.
- Notes will be taken from reading, labs, and PowerPoint presentations given during class.



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