

MAGEE 8th GRADE SCIENCE SYLLABUS

with Mr. Myers

OBJECTIVES

Welcome to the Science Department at Magee Middle School. Science is a full year requirement in 8th grade. Instruction is provided through lectures/demonstrations, group discussion, and “hands on” lab experiences. This class is intended to prepare students for the demands of a high school science course. Units will include Processes, Anatomy & Physiology, Genetics, Chemistry, Physics and Electricity. Please bookmark my site at myersrandy.wixsite.com/science

ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be assessed in four ways for each unit: homework, labs, quizzes/tests, and special projects. **IT IS CRITICAL TO YOUR LEARNING THAT ASSIGNMENTS ARE COMPLETED ON TIME. LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED** (exceptions may be made as required for students with a 504 or IEP). Science, like math, builds upon previous concepts that, if not learned, will prevent future learning from taking place. In the case of an absence, one day will be provided for each day absent, to turn in any missed work. It is the **student's responsibility** to note when assignments are due and turn them in on time. Typically, these are collected during the first 5 minutes of class. Weekly assignments are listed both on a calendar in the back of the classroom and on the calendar section of my website. It is the **student's responsibility** to check these *before* class begins to determine what work was missed. If the assignment is **written in blue** on the web or in-class calendar, they must pick it up in class (in the back of the room by the class calendar). If it is **written in black**, they must enter the required info into the “**Excused Assignment Log**” located by the calendar in class or on my website. Only assignments indicated in black on the calendar will be excused and only if the absence is excused and the log is fully completed. All work must be completed in **black ink, blue ink or black pencil**. Other colors will result in a “0”. All short answer questions should be answered in **complete sentences** or they will receive no credit (unless told otherwise). All non-whole number answers are to be rounded to .01 place unless told otherwise. A major emphasis of this class and Science in general is **following directions**. Take the time to read and follow them carefully.

HOMEWORK

Check the online calendar on my website for info regarding upcoming homework and due dates. The text messaging service “Remind” will also keep you informed regarding these. Be sure to sign up. **Due to the fact that we do not use a textbook in this class, homework assignments and notes taken in class are the primary source of student information.** Timely completion of these assignments is expected. Once graded and returned, students are strongly encouraged to keep all assignments for use as study guides to prepare for quizzes and tests. Videos posted on my website will also help, should you struggle with completion.

LABS

These assignments are “hands on” activities designed to reinforce the concepts presented. These are completed in class in small groups. Although done in groups, each student is usually responsible for his or her own data collection and conclusions. Ample class time is provided for the completion of these labs if directions are followed. For the safety and learning of all students, anyone not adhering to the class rules will be excluded from that lab, receiving a “0” for that assignment.

QUIZZES/TESTS

Quizzes will be given periodically to reinforce concepts. Tests are a major method of evaluation at the end of each unit and will be reviewed for in class. Dates for these can also be found on the online calendar.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

These projects include Electronic Circuits and Rube Goldberg Devices among others. Each unit is introduced with written assignments and then reinforced with these hands-on lab experiences. The vast majority of labs can be conducted with minimal cost or materials. However, on occasion some very exciting, worthwhile labs become cost prohibitive. I am requesting that each student pay a **\$20 LAB FEE to cover these costs**. Please note that the Science teachers have no budget for additional materials and therefore these funds are critical to ensure we offer the most engaging, hands-on

activities. If it is a financial hardship and cannot afford to pay this, please send me a parent note or email. I am requesting all payments **by August 30th**. Many of you may have already done so at registration already.

GRADING

Quarter grades are issued every 9 weeks and a final grade will be given at the end of the year. I strive to keep grades up to date. Usually assignments are graded and posted online via Parent/StudentVue within 48 hours from when they are collected. Students are graded on a total points scale. Careful homework completion is critical to success as it reinforces concepts that will appear on the more heavily weight quizzes and test. Extra credit assignments will be offered throughout the year and are usually given during the last two weeks of each quarter. **I do NOT round up grades - 59.99% is failing.** This is why extra credit is offered each quarter. **Students need to take the responsibility** to ask me for help as needed. Check your grades regularly online using ParentVUE or StudentVUE. If you have not activated your account, see the office immediately for the activation key.

CONDUCT & EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to behave in a mature, responsible manner. Any behavior that distracts from learning and instruction may result in removal from the activity and/or classroom. See the "Code of Conduct" for more info. Each **student's classroom behavior, attitude, effort and prompt attendance** will be used in assigning the Citizenship Grade. Each student begins with a grade of "Satisfactory" which is adjusted accordingly. Failing students should expect a "U" as they have typically failed to demonstrate one or more of these. Class rules include:

1. **Demonstrate Respect to the Teacher, Classmates and Classroom**

This means:

HONESTY while grading work or taking tests/quizzes. There is no such thing as an innocent look.

NO TALKING, NOTE PASSING or GROOMING while the teacher is talking or taking questions.

NO PROFANITY or PUT DOWNS.

EYE CONTACT should be maintained with whoever "has the floor".

Handle equipment with care. Do not write on books, furniture, equipment or walls.

Clean up your work area and straighten desks in rows before being dismissed.

Wait to be dismissed at the end of class. You are *not* dismissed when the bell rings.

NO CELL PHONE/ELECTRONICS USE unless authorized by me. If found using this equipment, it will be taken away and returned at the end of the period. Chronic issues will require parent pick up of the device.

2. **Be to Class On Time with All Materials Prepared** (e.g. pencils sharpened, assignments in hand and completed) Please see the school policy for lunch detention (Lunch Accountability). **Parent notes excusing these unplanned tardies will not be accepted.** Only office passes marked "excused" will admit a student without repercussions. **You must have the following materials in your binder daily: pencils (several sharpened), small pencil sharpener, pens, highlighter, ruler (metric), eraser, black dry erase marker, calculator (simple 8-digit, \$1 version is fine), paper, homework, returned papers, Magee planner.** All science worksheets and papers including notes should be loose leaf (no notebook required) and should be kept in the Science section of your binder. Please use pocket dividers for each subject so your work for each class has its own home! If work has been collected or we have begun grading an assignment and you enter class with an unexcused tardy, you will receive a zero on that assignment. **IF NOT SEATED FULLY IN YOUR ASSIGNED SEAT WITH ALL NEEDED SUPPLIES AND YOUR BACKPACK IN THE DESIGNATED AREA BY THE BELL, YOU WILL BE MARKED TARDY.**

3. **Observe All Rules for each Lab** which will always include:

*No pranks, jokes silly behavior, pushing shoving, rough housing, playing with or tipping stools etc.

*Do not touch materials until told to and use them only in the manner and for the purpose provided

*Do not ingest (swallow) or put any provided substance on any part of your body or classmate unless directed

*Stay in your assigned area using or wearing any required safety equipment as directed

*When completed, return lab materials to their starting locations and clean up as directed

4. **Late work is NOT accepted** except in the case of absences, or per IEP/504 accommodations (see the final page). This includes assignments completed in class but not graded until later. **You must be organized and keep all work in the Science section of your binder! You may NOT go to your backpack once class has begun!**

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at randall.myers@tusd1.org, or visit my web site at myersrandy.wixsite.com/science I look forward to a fun and productive year ahead! **Please complete and sign the attached page** indicating you have read, understand and agree to the preceding.

MYERS 8th GRADE SCIENCE LEARNING & LAB CONTRACT

I _____, parent or guardian of the student below, agree to the rules and expectations of Mr. Myers Science class as described in the course syllabus. If my child has an IEP or 504, these accommodations will be met as detailed in the “Myers Science Accommodations” letter.

Parent Signature

Date

Parent email

I _____, student in Mr. Myers' _____ period class, agree to the rules and expectations as described in the course syllabus.

Student Signature

Date

Supplies list for Science:

- *Binder
- *Several Pencils & a sharpener
- *Pens
- *Highlighter
- *Metric Ruler
- *Black dry erase marker
- *Calculator (simple \$1 version is fine)
- *Paper
- *Magee planner

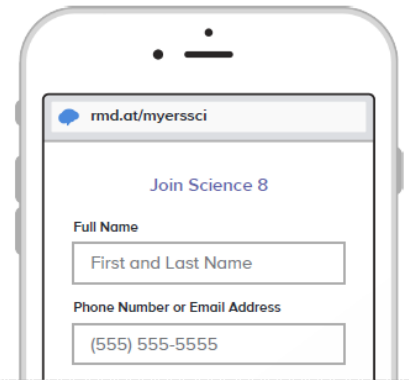
Pick a way to receive messages for **Science 8**:

- A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/myerssci

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



- B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @myerssci to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @myerssci to (520) 834-8807.

* Standard text message rates apply.

