



**Course Syllabus**  
**Memorial Middle School**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science**  
**Mr. Whittle**  
**2022-2023**

**Course Description:**

This course is intended to teach students the science concepts set forth by the 2016 Massachusetts Science Frameworks. Students will build off their prior knowledge and experiences from sixth and seventh grade. In eighth grade we will delve deeper into many of those concepts. We will also begin to explore and learn new topics and prepare students for their transition to freshman physics. The 8th grade science curriculum also includes a review of earth, space and life science topics, as students head towards the end of the year MCAS testing,

**September - November**

**Physical Science**

- Structure of Matter
- Physical and Chemical Properties
- Modeling Conservation of Mass
- Heat and Matter

**November - February**

**Life Science**

- Growth in Organisms
- Energy Flow in Organisms
- Inheritance and Variation of Traits
- Changes in Organisms Over Time

**February – June**

**Earth and Space Science**

- Earth and the solar system
- Earth's Materials
- Weather and Climate
- Natural Resources and Earth Systems
- **Physical Science** - Newton's Third Law

**General Rules:** Be on time, be prepared, be respectful, and be responsible.

**Preparation for Class:** Students need a pencil/pen, Chromebook, journal and completed homework for class each day.

**Expectations for class:**

Everyone has the right to, and should expect to learn.  
Each individual is worthy of respect  
Classroom orderliness is necessary for an effective classroom.  
Hard work is necessary for learning.  
Thinking critically and asking questions creates problem solvers!

**Late Work:**

- a) Work turned in late and not associated with an absence will not earn full credit. Depending on the magnitude of the work being turned in late, and the degree of lateness, the teacher may reduce the credit given up to 20% per each day after the deadline. No credit will be given after five school days.

**Missed Work:**

- a) It is **the student's** responsibility to obtain the homework assignments, notes & any other pertinent information that is missed during an absence. Work may be found on Google Classroom
- b) Missed work due to an absence: Additional time (up to five school days) and full credit will be allowed for each day of a verifiable and excused absence. After five school days, credit will be reduced one letter grade for each additional day. Exceptions will be made in unique, deserving situations as determined by the teacher and/or administration.

**Grade Breakdown for Science:**

Tests/Labs	<b>35%</b> - usually, two given per term. Based on an entire unit or bundle of scopes. Multiple quizzes given prior to break information down. Quizzes are useful study tools for tests. Class notes and packets will serve as study guides. Some labs and lab reports will be weighted as tests, and students will be made aware of these lab grades.
Quizzes	<b>30%</b> - quizzes are given frequently throughout the term. Students may only have a day notice. Based on recent classwork and the current lesson. Retake opportunities may sometimes be given, but students are responsible for arranging a make-up time with the teacher.
Classwork/ Participation	<b>30%</b> - assignments completed during class may be graded. These may include projects, labs, review sheets, etc. Students will usually receive notice at the time of the assignment. Participation grades will be based on readiness for class, contribution to group work, and the assistance in creating a positive learning environment.
Homework	<b>5%</b> - May consist of review of the day's lesson or an unfinished class assignment. Some larger projects will require work at home as well.

**Contact Information:**

Please feel free to contact me at any time. You may reach me by calling the school office, or by emailing. My email addresses is:

[jwhittle@town.hull.ma.us](mailto:jwhittle@town.hull.ma.us)

