

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Syllabus—Mr. Aharrah



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Introduction:--in this class you will be exposed to a large variety of topics covering many subjects including, biology, earth science, ecology and physical science. There will be a large emphasis on the scientific method process, critical thinking, and skills consisting of classifying, graphing, comparing and analyzing data. You will be assessed on a variety of activities including: discussions, labs, projects, demonstrations, learning guides and notes, Power Point presentations and videos.

In this class we will stick to the SOAR Core Values

- S—Strive for Success
- O—Observe Safe
- A— Act with Integrity
- R—Respect All

Grading Procedures: In this class, any and all assignments such as tests, projects, quizzes, homework, notes, activities, bell ringers and labs including participating in classroom discussion and behaviors in the classroom and lab will directly impact on your final grade. At the end of every 9 weeks the percentages will be converted into a letter grades according to the district grading policy. There will be one opportunity every 9 weeks to retake one exam. This retake must either occur before or after school or during an activity period within one week from when the test was returned to the student. **ANY HOMEWORK TURNED IN LATE WILL BE REDUCED BY 50% and will not be accepted after the test has been given. If you are caught cheating you will receive a 0 for that specific assignment or test.** If a student misses a day for any reason, it is the responsibility of that student to make up what he or she as missed. Assignments can be found in the appropriate folder in the classroom and on the website for specific assignments. You may also come during the activity period for help on specific topics that you missed. **Any unexcused absences will result in an immediate 50% reduction of assignments for that day.**

Students will be graded on a total point system. The more difficult the assignment the higher the point value of the assignment. Please refer to page 22 on the student agenda/handbook for further information regarding the grading scale.

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

1. **Come to class prepared everyday**—bring a pencil or pen, learning journal, learning guide, and your agenda. Please use the restroom before class begins. Students will only be allowed to use the restroom for emergencies and absolutely no locker visits after the late bell has rung.
2. **Be in your seat working on the bell ringer by the late bell**
3. **Act in a respectful manner**
4. **Complete all assigned work and turn in on the due date**
5. **Absolutely no food or drink or cell phones permitted in class**—any food or drink will be asked to be thrown in the trash and the cell phone will be confiscated as described on page 10 of the student handbook.

**PROJECTS**—Projects are an excellent way to evaluate your comprehension of a concept. There will be several projects that will be completed throughout the school year. Some of the projects include the Wild Flower Project, Ecology, Environmental Biology, chemistry, to name a few. For each project you will be supplied with a grading rubric or scoring sheet, informative paper which contains specific directions, and due date. Most projects will be worth more points due to the amount of work required in them. Some projects will require a written lab report to gain credit.

**Other Classroom Information**—It is required to take notes during class. In most cases there will be a guided note packet to follow and fill in with appropriate information. These guides along with your learning journal will be vital in preparing for the test and should be reviewed nightly.

**Criteria for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Earth Science**—Any student who maintains an “A” average throughout the school year in either Science 811 or 812 will be eligible to take the Honors Earth Science placement test. Then an average of the score on the placement test along with the student’s class grades will be averaged together. The students with the top overall averages will then be placed in the Honors Earth Science course.

Respect and responsibility are essential for a successful school year. As we respect ourselves, our classmates and the teacher, we will focus energy on a successful school year. In situations when you require accommodations, please contact me to make appropriate adjustments to best meet your classroom needs as soon possible. I look forward to a successful school year and I hope you do as well. **Please have this returned to Mr. Aharrah by Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015.**

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Student's Signature

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Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date