



Course Guide Grade 8 Science Fuquay-Varina Middle School

Ms. Smith

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- I. **Course Description:** Eighth grade Science will be taught holistically as students will learn how the four major branches of science are related to this one world in which we share resources. Students will also see how Science is integrated with other subjects in school. Students will communicate in Science through written reflections, essays and lab conclusions; through oral presentations and responses to questions; and through webquests and Internet research. Science is a course that exposes students to problems of international significance, so students will be expected to think globally and act locally.
- II. **Course Goals:** Students will investigate and analyze information and data about the following eight topics/units: (1) The Nature of Science and Technology, (2) The Hydrosphere, (3) Chemistry, (4) Diseases and Biotechnology, (5) Natural Resources, (6) Evolution of Landforms and Lifeforms, (7) Molecular Biology and Energy, and (8) Populations and Ecosystems. This year we will learn about scientific ideas that affect large areas over long periods of time and other ideas that concern only extremely tiny spaces. We will be discussing the water on Earth and how it impacts our lives and we will discover the world of elements and the compounds that they become. Our investigations will delve into the history of Earth and its inhabitants. We will explore how organisms interact with and respond to the biotic and abiotic components of their environment. You will get to do lots of hands-on experiments and participate in some really fun activities.
- III. **Textbooks:** Prentice Hall [Science Explorer](#). This will be used as a resource to support student learning and not as the primary source. Students can check out a textbook to use one night at a time.
- IV. **Grades and Assessment:** Students will be assessed through tests, quizzes, projects, labs, classwork and homework.
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|-----------------------|------------|
| Tests/Projects | 40% |
| Quizzes/Labs | 30% |
| Classwork | 20% |
| Homework | 10% |

FVMS Grading Plan: For students to maintain a consistent pace with the curriculum for each class, **it is necessary for students to complete and turn-in assignments on a consistent and timely basis.** Students are discouraged from maintaining the mindset that any and all work may be completed and turned in at any point in or after the grading period; students are encouraged to regularly complete assignments in a timely manner and with minimal exceptions to that expectation. Students will be permitted to turn in make-up work from absences. Additionally, students may complete late work beyond the specified deadline for work not completed on time but may incur a penalty. Make-up and late work shall

be graded at a standard consistent with the original work, with the penalty being noted at the completion of the grading.

Teachers and teams may create their own grading plan within the described parameters that shall be consistent throughout the school year; however, the penalties may *not exceed* the following: 10% for each day late not to exceed 40% penalty. While teachers are required to accept make-up work due to absences in a time span commensurate with the absences, teachers are not required to accept (non-absence related) late work beyond 4 school days of the due date (teacher discretion).

V. **Policies and Expectations:**

- Every student should have **lined notebook paper** and **pencil** in class each day. You will occasionally need colored pencils so have them available.
- **Emergencies:** To leave my class to go to the bathroom, you will need to raise your hand and ask to go. It is so important to be in class every minute of the day to stay up to date and prepared. Plan ahead and take care of personal business between classes, if possible. If you are sick and need to call home or go to guidance, just let me know and I will send you with a pass!
- We will have **homework** on a regular basis. It is important for you to **seriously** complete the short assignments so you can be prepared for class each day. You can check smithsciencefvms.weebly.com each day as well as checking the board when you arrive in class. Record all homework in your agenda. ALL homework is due on the assigned date. Turn it in on time!!! Homework is important practice to learn vocabulary and new concepts.
- **PLEASE write** your **name** and the **date** on every paper you receive.
- **Major Unit tests and Projects** will be announced at least one week in advance.
- **Quizzes** will be announced. They will be a review of recent class information or homework.
- **If you are absent**, it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to complete the assignment. All make up work should be completed within two days of the absence. If you missed a quiz or a test, check with me about when you can make it up. It may need to be before or after school or at lunch. Make up work is the responsibility of the student. If it is not completed in a timely manner, the grade becomes a zero.
- Dissection is one of many instructional methods that may be used in laboratory science courses. Students/parents/guardians may request alternatives to dissection from the teacher. Alternatives may include such materials as videos of dissections, virtual dissection simulations, models, charts, and diagrams.
- You will be given a vocabulary list at the beginning of each unit. This can also be found at smithscienceFVMS.weebly.com. We will work on study skills using vocabulary during the year, but making flash cards or study tool will benefit you greatly on your assessments. Also, this is a great strategy for EOG review.

PARENTS: Please check smithscienceFVMS.weebly.com regularly, I will keep it up to date with homework assignments and important dates. If you are ever concerned about your child's success in Science please feel free to contact me so that we can work out a plan that will work for your child. Email is the best method of contact for me. You can also message me on **Remind** (Code: **@smithfvms**). I look forward to getting to know you and your child throughout the year as we learn together because education is the key to success. Welcome to the eighth grade!

Please bring back this sheet only. Thank you! 😊

I have read the course information and know what I need to do to be successful in 8th Grade Science Class.

Students Name Printed _____

Student Signature _____

I have read this information and know how I can help my child be successful in Science this school year.

Parent(s) Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Please print clearly.

Email(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Phone number(s):

Please indicate if the phone number is home, cell or work: _____

Students:

How do you learn? What are you looking forward to in Science class?

Parents:

What would you like to see academically from your child this year? _____

