

8th Grade Science  
2011-2012

Instructor:

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Course Description

This course is a study in the field of Earth Science. It is designed to engage and involve 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and help them prepare for the rigors of high school science. Students will be encouraged to think for themselves and develop an appreciation for science and its practices. Students will learn how to develop their own experiments and present findings in a clear and precise manner. Another priority of this class is to develop good work ethic and help students see the value of consistency and discipline when it comes to their work. Students will be encouraged to fine-tune their study skills, recognizing individual strengths and weaknesses in regards to understanding and retention.

Learning Benchmarks

Students will:

Demonstrates an ability to understand, apply, and evaluate *relevant* science concepts and ideas.

Consistently utilizes active reading with the aim of acquiring knowledge of science concepts.

Designs and interprets investigations using appropriate processes of scientific inquiry.

Communicates understanding of scientific concepts and ideas with detail in writing.

Preparation for Class/ Course Materials

Prentice Hall Earth Science (ISBN # 978-0-13-362755-8)

Methods of Instruction

This course is designed with a variety of teaching strategies in mind. Student-centered learning is the foundation, with a strong emphasis on hands-on activities. Group work will encourage collaboration while allowing for cooperative discussion and investigation. Labs, audio/visual presentations, field trips, debates, readings, and lectures will also be an essential part of the curriculum.

Assessments

Students will be evaluated through the implementation of homework assignments, labs, quizzes, and tests. In addition to these, student progress will also be evaluated through the use of projects that may be completed individually or as part of a group. Teacher written comments will be published twice a year in the fall and spring. In addition to these, trimester letter grade reports are provided as well.

Projected Course Schedule

1st trimester

- Introduction to Earth Science
- Earth's Resources
- Soil, Mass Movement

2nd trimester

- Water, Rivers
- Glaciers, Deserts, Wind

3rd trimester

- Geologic time

- Volcanoes

Science class meets 4 times a week for a total of 214 minutes.