



Welcome to 8th Grade Science



In this lab-based class you will gain experience with science and engineering practices, as well as develop your understanding of some of the core ideas in physical science as you investigate the interactions of matter and energy in physics, chemistry and astronomy. You will also explore some of the big ideas that tie life science, physical science and earth science together.

You will work individually and together with members of your lab team to observe, ask questions and define problems; to develop and evaluate models and hypotheses; to plan and carry out investigations; to collect, interpret and evaluate data and other information; and to develop explanations and solutions and support them with reasoning based on evidence.

Your science schedule includes two-period lab blocks on Tuesdays to allow the uninterrupted time needed for labs and other investigations. We will also meet for one period on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Those activities, lectures and discussions will help support the concepts in your labs and other assignments.

YOU ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE THESE MATERIALS EVERY SCIENCE DAY:

- **Science Journal** – this will be provided (see below)
- Pencil Pouch with
 - **several sharp pencils or mechanical pencils** (NOT pens – not even erasable ones!)
 - **pencil sharpener suitable for colored pencils**
(with shavings catcher, and non-motorized please!)
 - **scientific calculator**
- 3-ring binder (okay to combine with Social Studies and Math) in which you bring:
 - **loose-leaf binder paper** (NOT SPIRAL!)
 - **your JCS Planner**
- Your **signed Lab Safety Contract** (this will be in your Science Journal once completed)
- **A curious, inquiring mind and your best problem-solving strategies**

Not required, but helpful to have in your pencil pouch:

- Colored pencils (we do have class sets for use in the classroom, however you will need colored pencils for some of your homework assignments.)

BACKPACKS CAN BE A LAB HAZARD. THE BEST SOLUTION IS TO LEAVE YOUR BACKPACK ZIPPED-UP ON A HOOK OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. YOUR SCIENCE JOURNAL AND BINDER WITH PENCIL POUCH AND JCS PLANNER SHOULD BE ALL YOU BRING INTO THE LAB. SCHOOL CELL PHONE POLICY WILL BE ENFORCED, SO PLEASE REVIEW THAT SECTION OF POLICIES IN YOUR PLANNER WITH YOUR PARENTS. VALUABLES SHOULD ALWAYS BE LEFT AT HOME.

YOUR SCIENCE JOURNAL

It is essential that you take well-organized notes and **KEEP ALL LAB WORK, ASSIGNMENTS and TESTS!** You will be given a Science Journal for this purpose, and it is your responsibility to maintain it through the school year. Often an assignment will require that you use information from prior labs and notes, so the effort you put into organization will serve you well! The way in which you are to take notes, set up and keep your journal will be explained in class. You may be asked to turn in your Science Journal at any time for evaluation, so be sure to keep it up to date and do not keep work from any other classes in it.

IF YOU ARE ABSENT

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO GET THE MATERIAL YOU MISSED AS SOON AS YOU RETURN!

When you return to school, check in with me. Your lab team should also be prepared to fill you in on what you missed, and provide data from missed labs, if appropriate. **You are responsible for completing all work you missed.** Depending on the lab, you may need to schedule a time with me to make it up.

CONTRIBUTING TO YOUR SCIENCE LAB

Help make your Science Lab full of what interests YOU!

- * Submit proposals for speaker topics or special projects.
- * Bring in articles about current science happenings and discoveries.
*extra credit will be awarded for articles relating to current unit of study accompanied by a short written summary.
- * Help collect various "recycled" supplies we will need from time to time.

EVALUATION

Your science grade will be based on the following:

- Labs and Investigations
 - Safety and lab team cooperation
 - Demonstration of skills
 - Understanding of concepts
- Lab and Investigation write-ups and presentations
- Independent assignments (homework and long-term projects)
- Science Journal complete and in order
- Tests, quizzes and other assessments.

You are expected to turn in write-ups and assignments on time.

☹ Late work may result in a N.O.M.A and be subject to grade reduction.

☹ Work turned in more than one week late may not be accepted for credit.

Note: if you are absent, work must be completed as soon as possible after you return. In general, you have one day "grace" for every day you were absent. Independent study contract work is due the day you return unless I have given you other instructions.

☺ **MOST important:** you will understand your current work better if you have completed all prior work. Don't let yourself get behind!

SCIENCE LAB CLASSROOM GUIDELINES

SAFETY

We will go through the “Lab Safety Regulations for Science Students” together and I will demonstrate safety procedures. You will receive a Lab Safety Contract which must be signed and followed in order to maintain lab privileges. In addition, you will be given a written “Science Laboratory Safety Test” which you must pass before you participate in labs. A passing score is 100% since there are no rules that are not important to know. We will review extensively, and you will be given the opportunity to retake the test if necessary until you achieve 100% and earn your safety clearance.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

Everyone—students, teachers, and guests—are respected members of our lab and classroom learning community. Respect is demonstrated in the right to learn, to investigate safely and scientifically, and the right to feel safe to be yourself in this classroom. Be kind. Put-downs and hurtful comments will not be tolerated.

Guiding principle:

Respect and care for yourself, for others, and for this place.

Classroom Agreements (please sign below)

I agree to:

1. Be in my seat, ready to learn, with all appropriate materials before class begins.
2. Support the learning environment and contribute my best effort.
3. Follow all safety procedures and do nothing that deliberately or carelessly harms others, the school, or myself.

Welcome to your lab! Let's make this a great year!

Dear Parents:

We are looking forward to a year full of investigations and discoveries! Much of this course is based on students doing science to experience what distinguishes science from other types of intellectual endeavors. Students will also have assignments to complete at home, as well as notes from in-class lectures and discussions. Since the work students will be doing will continue to build upon concepts and information from prior investigations, each student's Science Journal will become an important reference. Your help and encouragement in developing good organizational skills will really benefit your daughter or son.

Please read over the attached handout. Feel free to contact me if you have a question or concern. Mark your calendar and plan to attend the

Upper Grade Back To School Night on Thursday, September 13th at 6:30 in the library.

See you there!

Mr. Nick Dedini
ndedini@jcsk8.org

Student Signature

Parent Signature