



## Lois & Jerry Tarkanian Middle School Course Expectations 2019-2020

<b>Subjects:</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
Science 8 Science 8 Accelerated	Mr. Thistlewaite Ms. Ostrovsky Mr. Roehm Mr. Muraco

### Course Scope

<b>Science 8 &amp; Science 8 Accelerated</b>	This year-long course for eighth grade students provides the physical science explanations that extend understandings developed in previous science courses. Students will use scientific processes, protocols, and tools, including inquiry, to build understanding of structures, patterns, and relationships explained through the physical sciences. Critical thinking, collaboration, accuracy, and communication skills will be emphasized as students refine their scientific literacy. This course is required for eighth grade students.
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### Course Goals

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To demonstrate scientific literacy and content knowledge of physical science.</li><li>2. To safely engage in structured and original exploration of scientific questions.</li><li>3. To understand the nature of scientific study.</li><li>4. To understand heredity and its' components as it applies to living systems.</li><li>5. To describe structures and functions of physical systems.</li><li>6. To describe the process of natural selection and its role in adaptations.</li><li>7. To understand the dynamic interactions in living and physical systems.</li><li>8. To explore the relationship between force and motion.</li><li>9. To differentiate among forms of energy, energy transformations, and uses of energy.</li><li>10. To explore the history and use of various energy sources.</li><li>11. To explore the relationship between energy and magnetism.</li><li>12. To apply knowledge of wave characteristics and behavior to sound and light.</li><li>13. To use knowledge of properties and characteristics of light to understand movement, distance, and locations of celestial objects.</li><li>14. To explore physical science concepts used in genetics, space exploration, energy consumption, and technological applications.</li><li>15. To develop awareness of career opportunities in science and related educational requirements.</li></ol>
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### Recommended Materials

Materials to be determined by your specific teacher the first week of school.
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## Assignments and Homework

In general, classwork is assigned Monday through Friday. Any classwork not finished by the student in class will be finished as homework. Students will be required to check Google Classroom the “essential question” of each day’s lesson and the associated assignment. Students should highlight these assignments as they are completed. Work that is not done or not turned in will be noted in Infinite Campus. It is the students' responsibility to obtain make-up work upon returning from any absence. Work that is late due to excused absences will be accepted per the District’s absence policy.

## Evaluation and Grading System

All grades will be based on the following scale:

**A (90 – 100%), B (80 – 89%), C (70 – 79%), D (60 – 69%), F (0 – 59%)**

Quarter grades will be based on the following weighted point system:

### **Science 8 Accelerated and Regular**

Assessments – tests and quizzes 75%  
Labs and Classwork (unfinished classwork becomes homework) 25%

Semester grades will be based on the quarter grades (two at 40% each) and a semester exam (20%).

Citizenship grades will be determined by each student's ability to make good choices regarding respect and responsibility as determined by school and classroom rules and procedures.

**Late work:** Late work will be accepted until the unit is closed. After 2 late assignments have been turned in the student’s citizenship will be lowered. Late assignments can be reduced by 10% per teacher discretion.

## Expected Student Behavior

### **Mutual Courtesy / Mutual Respect**

Respect for oneself and others happens through positive interactions with those around you. To ensure that classroom activities benefit all, students will be expected to be:

**Capable** – seated with required materials out and ready by the final bell.

**Courteous** – polite to each member of the class, including visitors and substitutes.

**Cooperative** – follow all classroom rules and procedures for actions such as speaking, leaving their seats, sharpening their pencils, and working on assignments in groups or individually.

**Considerate** – show respect for others and their feelings.

## Consequences / Rewards

All students have the right to learn; any behavior which disrupts this process will be addressed through a variety of methods including, but not limited to:

- Phone calls/letters to parents
- Parent conferences
- Reduction in citizenship grade
- Detention
- Loss of privileges
- Dean’s referral/detention

Students who contribute to a positive educational experience for themselves and their fellow classmates can expect the following rewards:

- Commendable citizenship grades
- Positive phone calls/letters to parents
- Academic and privilege passes
- Participation in grade-level activities
- Field Trip privileges