



Welcome to Science!

Larsen Middle School 7th Grade Science Syllabus
Mrs. Hawley Email: lisahawley@u-46.org Room 202

Course Overview

Science is a year long course for both 7th and 8th grade. The Science curriculum is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). District U-46 approved a change in curriculum for Science in the spring of 2017. Below are the units of study or course strands. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss the content below, please contact your child's Science teacher at: lisahawley@u-46.org.

Secondary Science and Standards-Based Learning and Assessment

The purpose of Standards Based Learning is to ensure that a student's grade is reflective of his or her mastery of the course's strands (see below). Since Standards Based Learning models do not use the traditional point scale, but instead collect accurate evidence of student performance and academic growth to determine mastery, students will reflect on and build their knowledge and skills throughout the semester. At the end of the semester, the teacher reviews the evidence presented by each student, for each strand, and converts said evidence into a traditional letter grade. In this model, student learning is based on neither points nor weights, but a professional interpretation of evidence of student mastery of the strands.

Course Strands (what students will be graded on)

- Each Course has grading strands and code which have been uploaded to Infinite Campus. These Course Strands are a combination of:
 - 7SCI.06 Matter & Its Interactions (Semester 1)
 - 7SCI.02 Scientific and Engineering Processes (Semester 1 & 2)
 - 7SCI.01 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures & Processes (Semester 2)
 - 7SCI.03 Heredity: Inheritance & Variation of Traits (Semester 2)

Required Course Materials

Chromebook (Charged)	Earbuds
Case-It	Index Cards
Pencils (preferred)	Highlighter
(2) Composition Notebook	Disinfecting Wipes
2 pocket folder	Kleenex
Post-It Notes	

Classroom Expectations

Science class can be a place where students will work cooperatively to explore and learn about Science concepts and practices. Therefore, all students will be respected, to ensure a safe and productive learning environment.

Additionally, the following expectations will be followed in Science class:

- ★ Arrive on time with materials and be ready to learn.
- ★ Complete assignments as assigned.
- ★ Ask questions for clarification.
- ★ Gum, food, and drinks cannot be consumed in class, except for water.
- ★ Cell phones are not to be used during class.
- ★ Respect yourself, classmates, Ms. Hawley, and classroom material.
- ★ Do your best!

Student Evidence/Assessments

Evidence of Learning and For Learning is any artifact that indicates whether or not a student has achieved proficiency in a strand. This is both a formal and informal processes used to improve learning.

For example, evidence in science classes may include, but is not limited to:

- Claim and Evidence Essays
- Presentations
- Investigations Reports
- Summative Assessments

Score	What does it mean?
4 = Mastery	Demonstrates ability to apply extended thinking about the skills and knowledge of the standard
3 = Proficient	Demonstrates skills and knowledge of the standard
2 = Basic	Demonstrates a basic understanding of the skills and knowledge of the standard
1 = Below Basic	Demonstrates a below basic understanding of the standard; may demonstrate gaps in skills and knowledge
0 = No Evidence	There is no, or insufficient, evidence of learning to assess the standard at this time
NE = Not Evaluated	This standard has not been evaluated at this time

Determination of the Semester Grade

Determination of the semester grade is not an average of the completed work. At the end of the course, the student's final grade will be a composite ranking (modes) in each of the course strands. Please note:

- Letter grades will continue to be assigned at the end of the semester for all science courses at the middle school level.
- Standards-based Rubrics will be used to determine students' level of proficiency using the 0-4 scale based on set criteria.
- Rubrics will be distributed at the beginning of a unit of study and referred to throughout the learning progression for the purpose of providing feedback.

Retakes

- Students will have multiple assessment opportunities to demonstrate higher levels of achievement.
- The opportunities may be initiated by the instructor or the student, but always at the discretion of the teacher.
- Students must complete an intervention contract and turn it in to the teacher before qualifying for a retake.

- The most current grade will show in Infinite Campus- if a student starts with a 2 and then earns a 1 on a retake, the 1 will be the score reflected online (and in grade determination if it is near a grade reporting window).
- Retakes must be completed within two weeks of the original assessment being handed back.
- Students must have all targeted formative assessments completed in order to qualify for a retake.

Late Work

Late work is any work is turned in after the class period when it was due. Late work will be accepted until the last week of the Science unit window. Students who are absent for any reason should make-up all class work missed. When absent on an assignment due date, students are expected to submit their work on the day they return to receive full credit. If absent on the day the assignment is given, an additional day will be added to the deadline if needed. Students are responsible for knowing what is to be made up and seeing that assignments are completed. Once the retake window is closed, the assessment(s) will no longer be accepted.

Extra Credit and Bonus Points

- To ensure that grades reflect progress toward and achievement of the standards, giving extra credit points or bonus points will not occur in this class.
- The vision of U-46 is that behavior/participation will be reported separately from academic achievement and is not a component of a student's academic grade.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism Policy:

Academic dishonesty refers to cheating, copying, plagiarizing, or otherwise representing the work of others as one's own through verbal, written, graphic, electronic, or other means. Students determined to have been academically dishonest are subject to disciplinary action. Consequences will depend on the severity of the offense, the number of offenses, the impact on other students and teacher, and/or the curriculum. Academic dishonesty undermines the learning process and will not be condoned.

*I look forward to working with your child this year.
Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.*

*Sincerely,
Mrs. Hawley*