

Thurgood Marshall Middle School
8th Grade Science 2016-17
SYLLABUS AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

INSTRUCTOR: Elaine Palmer-Gillum

COURSE TITLE: 8th Grade Science

Classroom Phone Number: 858-549-5400 x 2136

e-mail: egillum@sandi.net (district email)

Web Page address: <http://mrs.gillum.science.com> (please note there is NO www.)

TEXTS: Holt Physical Science (book or cd), On-line text

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

8TH Grade Science is a one-year introductory course that focuses on beginning inorganic and organic chemistry, physics, engineering, Earth and space science, human sexuality and computer technology designed to meet the CA State Science Standards, Next Generation Science Standards and prepare students for high school science.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To achieve the state bench marks and district standards for 8th grade science in the areas of chemistry, physical science, engineering and Earth/space science.
2. To provide a foundation of basic concepts, facts and principles of science and to learn how to work in a scientific community.
3. To develop skills of observation, descriptions, rational and creative thinking processes.
4. To develop skills in collecting, organizing, and communicating scientific data and information.
5. To develop those values, aspirations and attitudes, which underlie the personal involvement of the individual with the environment and with mankind.
6. Utilizing all the skills that are the course objectives, completing a independent scientific investigation
7. To prepare these students for high school chemistry, physics, earth and life science studies, while developing the mastery for scientific methodology, research, and oral presentations.
8. To nurture a love of science through classroom success, home work reading, science fair projects and interesting labs which will inspire these students to continue in science.

STATE STANDARDS BEING ADDRESSED THIS YEAR:

The California State Standards for 8th grade science can be found at: www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/sciencestnd.pdf

The NGSS (Next Generation of Science Standards) can be found at: www.cdc.ca.gov/ci/sc/cf/scifw2nd60daypubreview.asp

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES:

This will be my 22nd year in the classroom. During the past 21 years I have learned that one of the most important keys to success is treating my students with respect and giving them responsibilities and ownership of their work.

1. Students will receive weekly emails stating what has been done in the class the previous week and what work will be done the following week. Parents are also encouraged to receive these weekly emails.
2. All students will receive syllabus, which are 4-5+ weeks of classroom activities, labs, lectures & homework. Due dates will be stated on the syllabus. These dates will also be posted on the classroom board, and web page.
3. Each unit of instruction will have a Homework Little Book. This will be used to assist the student on final exams
4. A science lab packet will be completed with all classroom work included. A table of contents will be provided. All work is to be put IN ORDER to receive full credit. Completion of these assignments is NOT optional.
5. Students are to arrive at class on time. Tardies will be recorded and citizenship will be affected if unexcused.
6. Students are to follow the Marshall Dress Code. Violations will be recorded and citizenship grades impacted.
7. **Students need to contact me ON THE DAY they return to school after an absence.** Some large assignments may still be due on the due date if they are absent (to avoid homework-flu), otherwise, the work will be due with absence days added to the due date. Deadlines that fall on “field trip days” will have the work due before school.
8. My web page will typically have the power point/notes posted. I can also send it via email to the students, burn it to a cd or copy it to a flash drive. They simply need to email me requesting the work.

HOMWORK & TUTORING

Homework can add up on a daily basis: ½ hr for each class multiplied by 4-6 classes. Students need to plan on approx. 2 hours of homework (total-all classes) each night. Some nights may be more, some less. Parents, if you see your student work 1+ hours on science every night, I need to hear from you. I typically chunk the homework into small, doable 20-30 minute bites, and never assign work one day that's due the next. I am available EVERY morning from 6:30 until 7:30am for tutoring. I also tutor during lunch & after school if needed. Please email me if you feel your student is becoming overwhelmed with their science work. 8th grade science is a blast, and I want them to have fun, learn a lot, and be successful! They should NOT be doing 1+ hrs of science homework-unless they are completing 1 week's worth in 1 night.

GRADING:

Science grades are based on a point system. This year their graded assignments will vary in point count. Little Books (the daily homework) will simply be recorded as a +, - or 0. While they hold no grade point value, they ARE a type of study guide and cheat sheet that the students may use on their final exams. Little Books done poorly, or not at all, will leave the student HOPING they know the test information by memory, because they will have no other aids on the final exams. PLEASE encourage your student to do these booklets well. It is to their advantage. Lab/Lecture notebooks and projects will be weighted with high point values as will Final Exams. It is the goal of our department that the students understand the standards and are prepared for high school. All due dates will be listed on the syllabus. Notebooks/projects earn up to 50% if under 3 days late and 0% after 3 days. Special situations are considered on a student by student basis. Grading: A= 90-100% B=80-89% C= 70-79% D= 59-69% F=58% or below. Citizenship is based on school/ classroom/safety rules, dress code guidelines and effort.

ATTENDANCE

Many activities in a science class are difficult or impossible to make up. These include labs, guest speakers and class discussions. If a student is absent, it is **THEIR responsibility to see me on the first day they return to school**. This can be done before after school, during lunch, by e-mail or phone. Parents, please feel free to contact me if your student will be out an extended period of time. I will copy lecture notes and provide as much as I can for their absences. You can also check my web site. It has my lectures /power points/lab handouts/ videos. Lab notebooks & projects are due on the date stated in the syllabus. If students are absent, work/test make up is to take place **THE FIRST DAY** they return to school. After 2 days of failure to turn in an assignment/take a test, the assignment will be recorded as a zero. Please note, some of these assignments/large projects will need to be brought to school by a friend or parent on the due date if the student is unable to attend that day. Students absent for extended periods of time due to illness will be considered on a case by case basis. **Students absent for family vacations/trips are expected to complete the work while on vacation and turn it in on the day they return. Full credit will not be given for late "vacation absent" work.** It is important for students to establish good study habits because it will lead to success in high school.

WEB PAGE AND WEB PHOTOS

During the past 20 years I photographed the kids doing labs, working on computers, etc. The kids, parents AND grandparents love it, BUT...if you would rather I didn't photograph your student, please send me a note. (Please note: the student's names are NEVER placed with their photos)

CLASSROOM VISITS

All parents are invited to visit the classroom at any time. Parents who are involved in their student's education contribute a great deal to the success of the student in school. In addition, I'd like to know each of you as we work together to help students grow academically, socially and emotionally. I also have some activities where I NEED parent volunteers!! Please let me know if you are available to help. If you are a working in a scientific/engineering company PLEASE contact me. I would love to have you come in and talk to the students about what you do!

WEEKLY UPDATES

Every Saturday I send out an e-mail "newsletter" that gives parents an update of what we did, and where we are going. I also include the next week's syllabus. This letter has been EXTREMELY useful for those parents who consistently seem to be pushed out of the "loop" by their darling student! Please e-mail me with your name, your student's name and class period, and the e-mail address you would like me to use for this weekly update. I also have the students on an e-mail list and send them updates. This establishes a wonderful means of communication for me, the kids, and their parents!

Please e-mail me (MrsG9064@aol.com) to set up your e-mail newsletter! In the subject box please type: your student's name & class period. In the letter area please type YOUR name and phone number. Thanks!

8th Grade Science -Mrs. Gillum Science- Parent Signature Letter
PARENTS: Please complete and return by Friday Sept 2nd to Mrs. Gillum
Extra credit if it comes in BEFORE Friday!

STUDENT NAME: _____ CLASS PERIOD: _____
Student e-mail address: _____ Student's Birthday: _____ (age) _____
PARENT NAME: (PLEASE PRINT) _____
SIGNATURE: _____ cell phone/home phone number _____
Parent e-mail address: _____

For extra credit Email both the student's & parent's email information today to: MrsG9064@aol.com
Be sure to put the class period and the student's last name/first name subject line. (example: 3 Gillum, Elaine)

Weekly e-mail letters: sent every Friday night/Saturday morning If you would like to receive the weekly e-mail letters, please sign here, and be sure to email me the addresses of everyone who wishes to receive the weekly notes. Please send the email formatted to have in the subject line of the email: your student's class period (just the number) their last name, first name.
PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ Student Signature: _____

Homework

I have read the District Syllabus/class guidelines letter and seen my student's class syllabus. **Little Books (the daily homework) will not be graded, but will be recorded as: + - 0. This will be the student's "cheat sheet" on final exams. Final grades will be based on exams and labs/project work.** Notebooks/projects earn up to 50% if under 3 days late and 0% after 3 days late during the 1st semester. Students will receive 0 credit for late work the 2nd semester. I also understand that if my student is absent they are allowed the same number of days to make up that work AND TURN IT IN, but it is their responsibility to see Mrs Gillum and get the missing work **the day they return to school.**

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ Student Signature: _____

Science Books & CDs

Your student will be receiving a science book. If the book is lost/damaged you are responsible for their financial replacement of up to \$80 each. The student will not receive their yearbook until this fine is paid. We do have the book on cd if you wish to download it to your computer/Kindle and then simply return it.

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ Student Signature: _____

IPads and classroom computers:

This year classroom computers, Ipads, Chrome Books will be used by the students. Students are expected to treat them with care and respect or they will lose the ability to use them.

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ Student Signature: _____

Classroom Photographs:

Throughout the year I take a TON of photos of the kids working in the labs and doing various activities and post them to my website. No names are posted. Please sign below if you give permission for your student to be photographed.

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

Audio Science Books: An audio version of the Holt text is also available. If you are interested in having a copy of the chapter's audio cds please indicate here. Please provide a flash drive with your student's name & class period and I will produce a copy for you. PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

Special Speakers Requested Science Fair Mentors Needed!!

I would like my students to be exposed to MANY areas of "science" careers. If you would like to come in and speak, OR can help our young Science Fair scientists PLEASE sign here, and tell me what area of science you currently work in!

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ Occupation: _____

STUDENT INFO: Due Friday Sept 2nd

This side is for the students to complete

STUDENTS: please complete, and return to class. Extra Credit if it's turned in before Friday!

This page is NOT for MOM & DAD to do- but for the student to complete!

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student name: _____ nick name: _____ Science Period: _____

Address: (w/zip code) _____

phone number: _____ cell phone number: _____ (if you have one)

e-mail address: _____ **(please e-mail this to me tonight for extra credit!!)**

Email to: MrsG9064@aol.com Be sure to put your name/period in the subject line.

your birthday: _____ your age: _____ your school counselor: _____

names/ages of brothers/sisters: _____

were any of them my prior students? Who/when _____

your hobbies: _____

Which parent/guardian would you like me to contact if I need to call home? _____

Which parent do you live with at home? _____

Do you have access to a computer at home? _____ printer? _____ internet? _____

Do you have a quiet place to work at home? _____

What after school activities do you participate in: _____

What clubs/sports do you participate in here at Marshall? _____

What subjects was your favorite last year?? _____

What were your grades in Science _____ Math _____ English _____

Who were your Science & Math teachers? _____

What is your favorite part of science?? (no homework is NOT an option!) ☺

What kind of classroom do you like? (loud, quiet, music-playing, etc) _____

Where do you like to sit in the classroom? _____

Introducing ME!

Please list 3 things you'd like me to know about you:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

If I could change my name, I would be: _____

I speak (name the languages): _____

I have lived in: _____

If I was given a million dollars I would: _____

My biggest pet peeve is: _____

My favorite celebrity/athlete is _____

When I watch TV, I usually watch: _____

In my spare time I _____

I like to read: _____

Someday I will: _____

I wish you could meet my: _____

I am _____ about completing my homework.

If I could take a class about anything it would be: _____

I like it when teachers: _____

I DON'T like it when teachers: _____