



## **8th Grade Science Syllabus**

**Teacher: Jessica Wang**

**Email: [jessica@wacs.us](mailto:jessica@wacs.us)**

**Room: 224**

### **Course Description:**

Welcome to Eighth Grade Science! Eighth Grade Science consists of a full year study of Physical Science. Physical Science includes the study of content such as matter, energy, waves, physics, and simple machines. The Eighth Grade Science curriculum promotes literacy and math in science. Students will be able to develop skills that can be utilized every day, such as problem solving, thinking critically, working cooperatively, using technology effectively, and valuing life-long learning. In addition, students will be able to use scientific knowledge in daily decisions that can help them lead productive and responsible lives. Students explore their world by participating in a variety of activities and projects that require them to utilize science process skills. Coursework follows the Georgia Standards of Excellence for 8th grade Science.

### **Units of Study:**

- Matter
- Energy & Electricity
- Types of Waves
- Speed & Motion
- Force: Gravity and Newton's Laws
- Work and Simple Machines

### **Materials Needed:**

- Composition notebook
- Black Binder
- Pencils/Pens
- Highlighters
- Earbuds

### **Class Culture:**

In order to reach our full potential, all students and teachers need to strive to create a peaceful, safe learning environment. This is achieved through mutual respect and acceptance of a variety of ideas, opinions and beliefs.

As a member of this team, you are expected to:

- Always be on time, be in your seat, and be ready to learn at the start of class.
- Come to class prepared (with all necessary classroom materials)
- Be respectful (use appropriate language, always consider how your words and actions affect others, and communicate your thoughts and feelings in a kind manner)
- Work cooperatively (recognize that you will not always work with a partner/group of your choice, and work cooperatively with all of your peers)
- Ask questions (I love your questions! Please don't hesitate to ask me anything you are wondering about!)
- Persevere: Never give up - Turn in "quality" work - Follow WACS's school-wide rules and procedures.

*NOTE: This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. Deviations may be necessary.*



## **Grading**

Students will be assessed through formative and summative assessments, and graded based on their rigor and depth of knowledge of the standards. Students will be graded based on a standards-based grading scale, so students will have opportunities to grow and improve within the standard within the unit.

<b>Performance Indicators</b>
<b>4 - Exceeds Standards:</b> Extends to Application & Inferences Beyond Expectations
<b>3 - Meets Standards:</b> Consistently & Independently
<b>2 - Progressing Towards Standards:</b> Guided & Assistance Needed
<b>1 - Limited Progress Towards Standards:</b> Limited Foundational Knowledge

Infinite Campus will be the student information system used by Westside. Login information will be provided.

## **Student Work:**

Notebook organization is an ongoing processing skill. The student's notebook is a resource for curriculum material and it should be consistent with the material that has been distributed in class. Student work will be sent home every four weeks. It will be the student's responsibility to share this work with you. A signature card will be included for both the parent and student to sign indicating that the work has been reviewed and discussed.

## **Homework:**

Homework will be assigned on an *as needed* basis, but it is expected to be completed within the given timeframe. Homework assignments are given when it is essential to ensure that students master the topics and skills we learn in class. Homework will help students to be prepared for class and do well on assessments. If you have any questions about homework, my door will be open at 7:30AM for extra help.

## **Late Work:**

Students are required to turn in all assignments on the given due date and time. Most assignments are due at the beginning of class. Students will be informed if this is not the case. Homework, class work, and project work turned in late will receive a maximum of a 2. Special circumstances regarding late work can be discussed on an individual basis, but will only be approved at the teacher's discretion. Please feel free to get in touch with me via email to discuss special circumstances/ accommodations.

## **Absence Make-Up Work:**

If a student is absent on a given due date, he or she may submit the work assigned prior to the absence or on the day of his/her return. Any previously assigned work submitted after the student's return date is considered late. If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to check with the teacher for any missing work. It is also his/her responsibility to ask a peer or teacher for any notes or warm-ups that he/she may have missed. It is the student's responsibility to find out about, and turn in, any missed assignments due to absences. The student will have as many days as he/she was absent to complete the missed assignments before assignments will be considered late. These make up days will begin the day the student returns to school. If a student knows he/she will be absent ahead of time, please inform the teacher to receive any available assignments prior to the

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absence. Any student who plans to be absent for 5 or more consecutive days may set up a contract for independent study through the teacher. Students will submit the work for credit upon their return.

**Technology Policy:**

Westside Atlanta Charter School (WACS) retains sole right of possession of all iPads, Chromebooks and related equipment (now referred to as “device”). Devices will be issued to students according to the guidelines set forth in the WACS technology contract. The technology team and school administration retain the right to inspect and/or collect a device at any time and to alter, add, or delete installed software or hardware. In order to be able to access a school-issued device, each student must have a signed technology contract on file. This contract must be signed by the student and the parent to show agreement.

**Uniforms:**

**MIDDLE GRADES (5TH - 8TH GRADES)**

BOYS	GIRLS
<p>Tops:  <b>OXFORD shirts (long or short sleeved)</b>            White, Light Blue            Westside logo optional</p>	<p>Tops:  <b>OXFORD shirts or blouses (long or short sleeved)</b>            White, Light Blue            Westside logo optional</p>
<p>Bottoms:            Khaki pants or shorts</p>	<p>Bottoms:            Khaki pants, shorts, or skirt</p>
<p>Shoes:            Closed toe athletic shoes</p>	<p>Shoes:            Closed toe athletic shoes</p>
<p>Classroom Outerwear:            Westside sweatshirt            Plain* navy blue fleece, sweater, or vest  <b>NO HOODS OR HATS</b>            *Westside logo optional, no other logos permitted</p>	<p>Classroom Outerwear:            Westside sweatshirt            Plain* navy blue fleece, sweater, or vest  <b>NO HOODS OR HATS</b>            *Westside logo optional, no other logos permitted</p>
<p>Playground/P.E. Outerwear:            Students may wear any coat/outerwear of their choice outside the building or in the gym</p>	<p>Playground/P.E. Outerwear:            Students may wear any coat/outerwear of their choice outside the building or in the gym</p>

**\*Purchasing Uniforms**

Uniforms can be purchased from a variety of retailers including Target, Walmart, Old Navy, Lands End and Zeus’ Closet. Westside Sweatshirts and logoed oxford shirts can be purchased at school. There is a gently used uniform closet in Catherine Perry’s office (media center) available to all Westside families.

**Parent/Student Handbook:**

The parent/student handbook is an important resource that details the expectations for Westside students and their families. It is important that both the student and their parents read the handbook which is available on the Westside website.

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Dear Parent(s):

Please review and discuss this syllabus with your student. Please sign below indicating that you and your student have read and understand the parent/student handbook and the syllabus for this class.

Student's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Please return this sheet to your student's teacher.\*\***

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