Science 8 Course Expectations

Dear Parent/Guardian,

My name is Cara Heck and I will be your child's 8th grade Science teacher for the 2017-2018 school year. I just want to take a moment and welcome you and your student to a new year at McKinley Middle School. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your child throughout the year. As your child's teacher, my goal is to develop him/her into a confident learner. I have high expectations for your child and I will do everything possible to ensure they are successful in my classroom. This will be a great learning opportunity not only for the students, but for me as well! Eighth grade is an exciting year and a great prospect for children to become leaders and take on new responsibilities.

Students will be expected to maintain an agenda and interactive notebook, which will help keep them organized. They will be responsible for keeping track of assignments and other expectations required for class. They are required to bring these items every day so please help them make it a habit of bringing the necessary items to class in order to set them up for success. Homework will also be a requirement on occasion so please help them develop a routine of checking their agendas to ensure that nothing is due the next day.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year please do not hesitate to contact me. I am available through email and by phone. We can also schedule meetings at our conveniences.

I'm looking forward to this year! Again, welcome to 8th grade Science!

Sincerely,

Cara Heck

Cara Heck

Email: cara.heck@aps.edu

Phone: (505) 881-9390 ext.43833

Science Tutoring: Wednesday from 3:15-4:00, for helping with homework, questions, testing, etc. If these times do not work please email, call, or talk to me so we can make other arrangements.

Please email me or call me and I will respond at my earliest convenience when it is least disruptive to our children learning.

Supplies:

- **Composition Notebook**
- **Pocket folder with brads**
- **Pencils (5 minimum)**
- **Glue Sticks (2 minimum)**
- **Kleenex (optional)**
- **Paper Towels (optional)**
- **Hand Sanitizer (optional)**
- **Clorox wipes (optional)**

Objective:

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.

Performance Outcomes:

Upon the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Work collaboratively with their peers to complete investigations.
2. Name and describe the functions of pieces of lab equipment, and demonstrate the ability to safely use them.
3. Understand and work with the SI (Standard International) system of measurement.
4. Use the scientific method to help analyze data and develop potential solutions to a problem.
5. Construct appropriate charts, graphs, and tables to display data, or analyze data from a chart, graph or table.
6. Understand different components of light and sound.
7. Apply the laws of motion to describe gravity, speed, velocity and acceleration.
8. Explain all the components of matter and be able to describe the phases of matter.
9. Understand the organization of the periodic table of the elements.
10. Investigate energy as a property associated with matter, and understand the different types of energy.
11. Understand the codependence of electricity and magnetism in relation to energy.

Classroom Expectations:

- Classrooms will be structured around the McKinley Code of Conduct, which can be found in the Student Handbook.
- Absolutely **NO** food or drinks (except for water) inside the classroom at any time. We will be doing experiments daily and consuming any chemicals could have dangerous consequences.
- Electronic devices are **NOT** permitted in the classroom. (Experiments could **damage** a phone if students are not following rules and pulls it out during class.)
- Bullying/Harassment towards fellow peers will **NOT** be tolerated. Student will receive a write up and parents will be notified.
- Cheating/Plagiarism will **NOT** be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive a zero on their assignment. A discipline referral will also be written.

Lab Safety:

- Any student acting recklessly during lab will be removed from the lab and given an alternative assignment.
- All lab equipment must be handled carefully. Any student who loses, damages, or breaks any lab equipment will be fined at the current cost for replacement.
- During lab, students must be in appropriate attire to ensure their safety. Legs must be covered and hair must be pulled back. Open-shoes may not be worn.
- Further safety measures such as goggles and proper lab procedures will be discussed during class prior to any lab experiments.

Course Outline:

Quarter 1- Lab Safety, Atomic Theory and Structure, Periodic Table of Elements
Quarter 2- Chemical Bonding and Reactions
Quarter 3- Waves (Light and Sound), Force and Motion
Quarter 4- Newton's Laws of Motion, Magnetism, Electricity

Absent and Make-Up Work Procedures:

- After an absence, it is the student's responsibility for obtaining and completing any make-up work within three school days. Upon your return, check the daily objectives and homework written on the Weekly Agenda Board. All homework and in class activities should be noted. Your teacher has a folder system in place that holds all handouts distributed in class that will be available for pick-up to students at any hour of the school day
- If you are absent on the day of a test or quiz, you must complete the test or quiz within three days of returning from the absence.
- Absolutely no student will be permitted to make up any tests or quizzes after the test or quiz has been returned to the class. Additionally, no late work will be accepted for a completed unit once the unit test has been taken.

Tests:

- Tests will be given at the end of each unit to assess the mastery of standards.
- Test retake policy – All students that make a D or F on a test will be required to retake the test for mastery before or after school. A short test prep session will be required before a student can retake the test. Any student that makes an A, B, C on the exam will have the option to retake the test with a test prep session.

Grades:

- Grades reflect student performance on assigned assessments.
- Grades will be determined by demonstrating mastery through various exercises such as homework, class work, quizzes, labs, exams, projects, etc.
- Late work will not be accepted however the grade will be decreased by 10% for each day it is late.
- Students who are absent for any reason will complete the written assignment in place of a missed labs. Written assignment will be based off the missed content.
- Grade Break Down:
    - 10% Notebook (Labs, Activities, Notes, etc.)
    - 90% Assessments (Mastery of the Standards)

Semester 1	1st Quarter = 45%	2nd Quarter = 45%	Semester Exam= 10%
Semester 2	3rd Quarter = 45%	4th Quarter = 45%	End of Course Exam = 10%

- Grading Scale is as followed:
    - A= 90-100
    - B= 80-89
    - C=70-79
    - D=60-69
    - F=<59