







Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade 8 Science Overview – Course Syllabus**Montgomery Village MS 19300 Watkins Mill Road  
Montgomery Village, MD 20886 301-840-4660**Instructor:****Ms. Susan Gross - ext. 182**[Susan C Gross@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Susan_C_Gross@mcpsmd.org)**Mr. Augustine Kang – ext. 181**[Augustine Kang@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Augustine_Kang@mcpsmd.org)**OVERVIEW**

Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> grade science! We hope you are ready to have a blast! This year you will build on the science concepts and processes you learned in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade. How does the Earth recycle rocks? How do scientists know the composition of stars? Does lightning strike twice in the same place? Are there more atoms in an ice cube or its puddle when it melts? Throughout the year you will use inquiry skills to discover the answers to these questions and more through our theme “*Living in a World of Change.*” By the end of the year you will have a great new perspective on the world around you.

**UNITS OF STUDY**

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Summary Statement</i>
1	<b>Atmospheric Phenomena</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore some of the key components of Earth’s weather patterns.</li> <li>Use weather instruments to collect data and predict future weather conditions.</li> <li>Investigate how global patterns within the atmosphere affect the climate of our planet.</li> <li>Investigate how coastal communities prepare for severe weather conditions.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Introductory Chemistry</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate how matter can be identified by observable measurable properties.</li> <li>Distinguish between physical and chemical changes.</li> <li>Determine that matter is neither created nor destroyed.</li> <li>Classify elements into groups based on properties.</li> <li>Distinguish between elements, compounds, and mixtures.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Earth’s Structure</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the Earth’s internal structure.</li> <li>Differentiate rock types and investigate the processes of the rock cycle.</li> <li>Explain how major geologic events are a result of crustal movement.</li> <li>Determine the difference between physical and chemical weathering.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Earth’s History</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the formation of the universe, galaxies, stars, and planets (earth).</li> <li>Explore the evidence proving the earth’s surface has changed over time</li> <li>Explore the role of sedimentary rock layers as evidence of changing life forms.</li> <li>Investigate that evolution is the process of change over time.</li> </ul>

General information, including indicators for each unit, is available online:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/science/classroom/instruction/>

**GRADING POLICY**

Students’ academic grades are based on individual academic achievement. Quarter grades will be determined using a scale of: A: 90% - 100%, B: 80% - 89%, C: 70% - 79%, D: 60% - 69%, E: 59% or lower. We will use an array of tools to assess student learning.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Description</b>
Summative Assessments/ Unit Assessments	25%	Portions or entire Assessment may NOT be retaken. Examples of Summative Assessments include end of unit tests, and culminating projects, and culminating labs.
Formative Assessments	65%	Teacher determines which assessments can be retaken* and will notify students before the assessments. The assessment can be retaken only once. Students must complete required activity(ies) as determined by the Science Department. Examples of Formal Assessments include labs, quizzes, reading and writing assignments, journal entries, warm-ups, exit cards, quizzes, class work, homework evaluated for learning, etc.
Practice/ Prep Homework	10%	Any assignment (textbook assignments and/or worksheets) assigned for practice or preparation for instruction.

MVMS uses the “raw score conversion to percentage” method to calculate grades. Therefore, the # of points a particular assignment is worth does not impact its weight within a category (18/20 carries the same weight as 36/40). However, assignments may still be weighted within categories by assigning weights to specific assignments.

Range of Weights for formative and summative assessments (i.e. quizzes = 2-3, lab reports = 2-3, exit card = 1, or other assignments as determined by the teacher). **No extra credit will be assigned.**

*Reassessment of Student Work: \*Reassessment grade replaces the original grade.\**

- ONLY Formative assessments (not summatives) may be revised to receive a higher grade until the end of a lesson sequence.
- The reassessment grade replaces the original grade even if the reassessed grade is lower.
- Reteaching / relearning activities are determined by the teacher and must be scheduled within the instructional time.
- Assessments may be reassessed partially, entirely, or in a different format.

*Late Assignments: (Due dates / Deadlines - this will be determined in advance by the classroom teacher)*

- Each assignment will have a **due date**. This is the date by which you are expected to submit the assignment. Your grade may drop one letter grade if it is not turned in by the due date.
- The **deadline** is the last day an assignment will be accepted for a grade. Work not turned in by the deadline will be considered missing and receive a 0%. Assignments that are completed and meet minimum standard (as indicated by the Science Department), will earn a minimum grade of 50%.

*Learning Skills Grades:*

In addition to the academic grade, students will receive *Learning Skills Grades* each quarter as well. Learning skills grades will assess students' Participation and Assignment Completion throughout the course. Students may earn the following grades for each of the aforementioned categories:

**C:** Consistently      **O:** Often      **S:** Sometimes      **R:** Rarely      **NI:** Not Enough Information

**HOMEWORK and EDLINE**

A set time to complete homework is a good way to help in establishing a priority at home. You can expect homework two or three times a week in science. You will be required to keep track of your assignments (due dates and deadlines) in your Mustang Data Notebook.

*\*\*Additionally, students and parents should visit Edline daily for posted assignments and daily grade updates ([www.edline.net](http://www.edline.net)). Students are expected to know their grades, and what, if any, work is missing at all times. There should be no surprises about grades to students or parents; if so, please make sure you contact me.\*\**

It would be extremely helpful to enter an active email address in both student and parent Edline accounts. If you need an Edline activation code, please contact Ms. Marable at [Alice\\_Marable@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Alice_Marable@mcpsmd.org).

**Suggested Student Organizational Tools and Supplies** (recommended supply list)

There will be no fees for this course.

- |                                                     |                       |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| - 3-ringed binder (Section for Science)             | - Notebook paper      | - Pens (black or blue) |
| - Calculator (inexpensive one to be kept in binder) | - Tissues             | - Colored pencils      |
| - Marble journal notebooks                          | - Pencils and Erasers | - Highlighter          |



**CLASS EXPECTATIONS**

- All science students will be required to follow safety procedures as designated by the MCPS safety contract. Failure to follow the safety guidelines may result in dismissal from the science laboratory for the remainder of that class period.
- A separate sheet regarding classroom procedures, expectations, and disciplinary actions, will be provided separately and must also be signed by parents.

**COMMUNICATION**

One of the most useful ways we have to communicate is your child's data notebook. Please check this daily for information. I can also be reached by email or by calling the school (301-840-4660). In addition, please check Edline regularly to know if you are missing work (other communication: progress reports / interims, report cards, scheduled conferencing).



**\*\*Please sign this paper below to indicate that you have read and understand these guidelines. Review these guidelines with your parent / guardian and have them sign them to indicate that they also understand the general course description of this class.\*\***

Student Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_