



St. Johns Middle School
St. Johns, MI

Seventh and Eighth Grade Science – Syllabus

Teacher: Steven Schmidt

E-mail: schmidts@sjredwings.org

Course Description:

Students will explore a variety of science topics based on the Michigan Science Standards. All science topics will be taught using the modeling instruction method of teaching science concepts. It is an approach that emphasizes the construction and application of conceptual models as a way of learning and doing science.

Goals of Course:

- The learner will actively participate in scientific activities to better understand scientific concepts presented.
- The learner will develop methods to think scientifically in order to solve problems.

Requirements:

- Students will need a 3-ring binder, at least 1”-2” wide, to hold all handouts. This binder is required in class every day.
- All students are required to come to class each day prepared to learn. This includes bringing all supplies and participating in daily lessons/activities.

Resources:

- Teacher is available by appointment for additional help
- Various helpful websites will be posted when applicable on classroom website mrschmidtscience.weebly.com

Science Notebooks

Students will be expected to keep a daily notebook in class. Every day, there will be information to record. This will include the daily agenda, key vocabulary words, notes, lab data, answers to lab analysis questions, handouts, skill sheets, etc. Students will be responsible for keeping the notebook in order, making sure everything given out in class is included.

Homework/Classroom Assignments

There will be very little homework in science. If students do not finish an assignment in class, they may need to take it home to finish it. We usually go over all questions and assignments the following day, so there will be a 25% penalty on late work.

Assessment Questions

Particular analysis questions will be assessed formally throughout each unit. A “plus” indicates that a student earned that score for his or her response, but added additional information above and beyond what was required.

Assessment Question Score	Points earned	Approximate Letter Grade
4	15/15	A
3+	14/15	A
3	13/15	B
2+	12/15	B-
2	11/15	C
1+	10/15	D+
1	9/15	D-
0	0/15	F

Unit Tests

A test will be given at the end of each unit. These tests will use various assessment methods to ensure students understand the concepts explored throughout the unit.

SJMS Grading Scale

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percent</i>
A	100-93	C	76-73
A-	92-90	C-	72-70
B+	89-87	D+	69-67
B	86-83	D	66-63
B-	82-80	D-	62-60
C+	79-77	E	59-0

Behavioral Expectations:

Area	T	E	A	M
	Take Responsibility	Ensure Safety	Act with Kindness	Model Positive Behavior
Classroom	Be in class and ready to learn on time. Participate. Listen and follow directions.	Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. Avoid horseplay. Respect school and personal property.	Support your peers. Keep comments positive. Respect others' personal space.	Learn from bell to bell. Take educational risks. Be a problem solver.

Helpful Hints:

- If a student needs extra help in science, please feel free to contact me. The best way to reach me is through email.
- Be sure to check my website for links to certain assignments given out in class.