



St. Johns Middle School
St. Johns, MI

Sixth and Seventh Grade Science – Syllabus

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Course Description:

Students will explore a variety of science topics based on the Next Generation 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:

- Student Planner (recommended)
- Access to computer lab (provided or bring in personal device)
- Teacher is available by appointment for additional help
- Various helpful websites will be posted when applicable on classroom website (fisherscience.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. Homework/Classroom Assignments will not be checked and will not be figured into their grade. If students are not doing their homework/classroom assignments, it will be evidenced by their grade on the concept reviews. We always go over all questions and assignments the following day.

Concept Review

Students will be assessed on their knowledge of concepts learned. These assessments will typically be 4-5 questions, worth 2 points each. Students will be able to use their science notebook to assist them with the concept review. An organized and complete notebook will be very helpful in completing this task. Concept Reviews can not be redone

Analysis 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. These questions can be re-done on a separate sheet of paper and turned back in with the original, to earn back half of the points that they missed.

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

Letter Grade	Percent	Letter Grade	Percent
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.
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Helpful Hints:

If a student needs extra help in science, please feel free to contact me by phone or email. The best way to reach me is through email, but I do check my voicemail regularly. Be sure to check my website for links to certain assignments given out in class. I also keep a science notebook. Students are welcome to borrow it at any time.