

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science with Mr. Moore

## 2023–2024

### Course Overview:

We will be exploring a variety of scientific concepts using the OpenSciEd curriculum units 8.1-8.6. The curriculum is designed to promote hands-on learning, critical thinking, and collaboration. Throughout the year students will engage in asking questions about observed phenomena. Those questions will direct the types of evidence we gather via investigations & experimentation. We will then engage in discussions, based on the gathered evidence, in order to deepen our understanding of key scientific principles.

### Units of Study:

This year's planned topics include the following and are grouped roughly by semester.

- Unit 8.1 Collisions
- Unit 8.2 Sound
- Unit 8.3 Magnetism
- Unit 8.3 Earth in Space
- Unit 8.4 Genetics
- Unit 8.6 Natural and Common Ancestry

### Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should be able to

- Demonstrate an understanding of fundamental scientific principles
- Apply the scientific method to conduct experiments, make observations and draw conclusions
- Analyze and interpret data from experiments and investigations
- Explain key concepts related to forces, waves, genetics, Earth in space, genetics, as well as natural and common ancestry
- Collaborate effectively with peers on group projects, labs and discussions
- Communicate scientific ideas based on evidence and reasoning

### Course Resources

- **Science Notebook** - Students will use a composition notebook for much of their science work, including warm-ups, notes, observations, analysis and conclusions. Notebooks may be kept in the classroom.
- **3-ring Binder** - Students will keep a section of their 3-ring binder for science assignments and handouts that are not in their science composition notebook
- **Chromebook** - Students are expected to bring their charged BISD Chromebook to each class for any digital assignments that may be given.
- **Google Classroom** - Digital assignments, resources, and announcements will be posted here. If the Woodward building is closed, students should check Google Classroom for announcements from the teacher.

### Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is valued at WMS. Students should not cheat, plagiarize or submit work that is not their own or their groups. It's about the core Woodward value of Integrity and showing what you truly know.

### Attendance Policy:

Regular attendance is crucial for students' success in this course. Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and arrive on time. Excessive absences may impact students' understanding of the material and therefore their overall grade. This is especially true given the classes focus on discussion on labwork.

**Absent or Late Work:**

If a student is absent from class, they should check the Classwork section of Google Classroom to see what was missed and then reach out to me if clarification is necessary. Quizzes and assessments may be made up during lunch, before school or by other arrangement. Students will need to arrange a time with me to make up any missed lab work.

**Class Engagement Expectations:**

Active participation in class discussions, activities and group work is essential. Engaging with the material and asking questions will enhance students' learning experiences. Showing respect for peers' opinions and ideas is expected during discussions and collaborative projects and reflects Woodward's core values of compassion and connection.

**Communications and Self-Advocacy:**

Students must be comfortable advocating for themselves. If you have questions or concerns, please talk to me in class or email me and/or your counselor. We cannot help you unless we know what you need. Parents are welcome to send an email or leave a voicemail on my school phone.

**Grading:**

There will be two categories of assignments in this course, assessments and daily work.

	Assessments: 70%	Daily Work: 30%
<b>Categories</b>	Projects, Quizzes, Exams	Labs, Worksheets, Warm-Ups, Notes, Reviews
<b>Edit/Late Work Policy</b>	Students may edit assessments to earn back up to half of the points missed on the original assessment. Assessment edits must be completed before the following unit assessment or the end of the semester, whichever comes first.	All daily work for a unit must be turned in prior to the unit assessment. Daily work may not be edited.
<b>Grading Scale</b>	<u>Standard 0-100% grading scale</u> 93-100% A    80-82% B-    67-69% D+ 90-92% A-    77-79% C+    60-66% D 87-89% B+    73-76% C    0-60% F 83-87% B    70-72% C-	<u>Modified 50-100% grading scale</u> Same as standard scale except with a minimum score of 50%.

Daily work will be scored based on level of completion. Your scores may be accompanied with my thoughts about what you did well, what could be improved upon, and any misconceptions in your knowledge that I may notice in your work.

This is going to be an exciting and challenging year! I look forward to working with all of my students! Please feel free to contact me either by email or phone.

Let's make it a great year at Woodward!

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