

Woodward Middle School
Home of the Wildcats
Eighth Grade Science

Course Overview: In this 8th-grade science course, we will explore a variety of scientific concepts through the OpenSciEd curriculum units 8.1 to 8.6. The curriculum is designed to promote hands-on learning, critical thinking, and collaboration. Throughout the year, we will engage in investigations, experiments, and discussions to deepen our understanding of key scientific principles.

Unit Overview:

Unit 8.1 - Contact Forces
Unit 8.2 - Sound Waves
Unit 8.3 - Forces at a Distance
Unit 8.4 - Earth in Space
Unit 8.5 - 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, and natural and common ancestry.
- Collaborate effectively with peers on group projects and discussions.
- Communicate scientific ideas based on evidence and reasoning.

Attendance Policy:

Regular attendance is crucial for your success in this course. Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and arrive on time. Excessive absences may impact your understanding of the material and your overall grade.

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. Respect for peers' opinions and ideas is expected during discussions and collaborative projects.

GRADING

Grades will be earned in a **total points** format, with tests and quizzes receiving greater weights (amount of points) than labs or assignments. Daily work will be scored based on level of completion.

Categories	Projects, Final Models, Assessments	Labs, Worksheets, Warm-Ups, Notes, Reviews
-------------------	--	---

Edit/Late Work Policy	Students may edit assessments to earn up to half of the points missed on an assessment grade. 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.
Grading Scale	<u>Standard 0-100% grading scale</u> 93-100% A 90-92% A- 87-89% B+ 83-87% B 80-82% B- 77-79% C+ 73-76% C 70-72% C- 67-69% D+ 60-66% D 0-59% F	<u>Modified 50-100% grading scale</u> Same as standard scale except with a minimum score of 50%.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is valued at WMS. Students should not cheat or plagiarize. It's about integrity and showing what you truly know.

Absent or Late Work

If a student is absent from class, they should check Google Classroom to see what was missed and then reach out to me if clarification is necessary. Quizzes and tests 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 labs.

Course Resources

- **Science Notebook** - Students will use a composition notebook for much of their science work, including warm-ups, notes, labs, observations, analysis and conclusions. Notebooks may be kept in the classroom and taken home as necessary.
- **3-Ring Binder** - Students need to have either a separate science 3-ring binder or space in a multi-class binder for science handouts and worksheets.
- **Chromebook** - Students are expected to bring their charged BISD Chromebook to each class for any digital assignments that may be given.
- **Google Classroom** - There is no textbook for this class, however slideshows, documents and other resources will be posted regularly on Google Classroom.

This is going to be an exciting and challenging year! I look forward to working with you and please feel free to contact me by either email or phone.

Sincerely,

Scott Orness
 sorness@bisd303.org