

## Science Syllabus

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My web page can be accessed through the school website at [www.avesnj.org](http://www.avesnj.org)

Availability to meet: Mondays between 10:15 and 10:45

**Textbooks:** The science program is inquiry based and as a result there is not a traditional "textbook" for the science classes. The students are provided with a book that provides information needed for labs and other activities, along with limited reading selections. The teacher, as necessary, provides other supplemental materials, such as articles, to the students. In addition, students are provided with a vocabulary list and study guide at the beginning of each unit of study. The materials used in the science classroom are FOSS, STC and SEPUP.

**Overview:** Each grade level covers a unit of life, physical (chemistry and physics) and earth sciences each year for a total of four (4) units per year. All of the units provide for an integration of science and math as well as incorporating technology and engineering. Students work in groups and individually depending on the activity and/or lab. At the beginning of each unit students are provided with a pre-assessment to provide students with an overview of what is expected from them by the end of the unit. This pre-assessment then becomes a study guide, which is reviewed prior to the test. I also am available for students to come in for extra help after school, before school and during study hall. If students are coming in after school they need to give me one day's notice.

### **Class Materials:**

Composition book (100 pages)

Pencils

Colored pencils or crayons

Two-pocket folder

### **Grading Policy**

**Summative Assessments (45%):** This category includes tests, projects, STEM projects and formal lab write-ups.

**Formative Assessments (35%):** This category includes quizzes, notebooks, lab activities, class activities, and mini-projects.

**Homework (20%):** Homework is assigned approximately three to four times per week.

*Homework and class work (labs) will be entered weekly. All other grades will be entered within five (5) days of the due date or test/quiz date.*

**Tests:** Tests are given at the end of a unit of study. Notice of all tests is given one (1) week in advance of the test. Students are encouraged to keep up with all work, including work missed due to absences, to ensure success on tests. Students are also given a pre-assessment/study guide at the beginning of each unit so that they know what is expected of them during the unit of study. If a student misses a test they will have a set time frame to make up the test; if the test is not made up within that time frame a zero will be given.

**Homework:** Homework is posted each day on the board in the science classroom. Students are encouraged to write their assignments in their assignments books. Homework in science class is in the form of the "Left Hand Page." Students will be given a handout the first week of school that will provide greater detail on how to do their homework as well as how the homework will be graded. If homework is not handed in the day it is due a zero will be given.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be given on occasion during the marking period. Students are given three (3) days advance notice for quizzes. If a student misses a quiz they will have a set time frame to make up the test; if the quiz is not made up within that time frame a zero will be given.

**Projects:** Students will be given projects throughout the marking period to complete. For the most part projects will be done in class. Students will be provided with rubrics at the start of a project along with the requirements of the project. This includes STEM projects that will be done during the marking period. All projects are due on the due date. If students hand in projects late 10 points will be deducted for each day past the due date. If a student is absent on the due date, the project is due upon the student's return to school.

**Science Fair/STEM Night:** Science Fair/STEM Night is for students in grades 5 through 8. Further information concerning the requirements for science fair will be provided to the students at a later date. Please do not start any projects until this information is distributed. All science fair projects are due on the due date. If students hand in a science fair project late 10 points will be deducted for each day past the due date. If a student is absent on the due date, the science fair project is due upon the student's return to school.

**Extra-Credit/Retakes:** Extra-credit is not offered to students. Retakes will only be offered to students for unit tests (no quizzes) and only if the student fails the unit test (below 65). The retake will cover the same material as the original test but will be a different test. Students are only allowed one retake per test.

**Labs/Classwork/Formal Lab Write-ups:** These are graded using rubrics that are specific to skills being assessed. Students are given an overview of each activity and what they are expected to accomplish. Formal lab write-ups will be reviewed with students and will be graded using a rubric.

**Make-Up Work:** Due to the nature of an inquiry-based science program, it is important that students are in class and on-time for class. If students are absent (including school activities such as band) they receive one day to make up the work for each day they are absent. Students need to come see me upon return to school to get the work they missed and the schedule for making up the work. A written note with due dates will be given to the student. If work is not made up in that time frame zeros will be given for the work missed. In some instances students may need to stay after school to make up lab work. If that is the case I will notify the student in writing of the requirement and a note will be sent home to the parents. If the student does not show to make up the lab, then a zero will be given for that lab.

**Classroom Rules/Procedures:**

1. Come to class each day on time, prepared and ready to learn. Make sure you have your notebook, folder and pencil each day.
2. Follow the class routine as posted on the board.
3. Be respectful of others. In order to create a positive learning environment, we must treat each other with respect and courtesy.
4. Respect the property of others and the property of the school.
5. Follow all safety rules as posted in the science classroom. These are in addition to the class rules (posted in the classroom) and the school rules.
6. No food in the science classroom.

**Information is subject to change**