

Eighth Grade Science – Course Expectations

Donna K. Wood at John T. Baker M.S.

OVERVIEW

Welcome to 8th grade science. This year you will build on all the science concepts and processes you've learned in 6th and 7th grade. How does the Earth recycle rocks? Does lightning strike twice in the same place? Are there more atoms in the ice cube or a puddle when it melts? Throughout the year you will use inquiry skills to discover the answers to these questions, through our theme "Living in a World of Change."

UNITS OF STUDY

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Summary Statement</i>
1	Introductory Chemistry	Investigation of the properties of matter
2	Atmospheric Phenomena	Exploration of Metrology
3	Earth's History	Examination of Earth's development and impact on the environment and living organisms.
4	Earth's Structure	Investigation of Earth's composition, forces at work to change the Earth and it's structural history

Learning Skills and Mastery Assessments

Learning and Practice: Non-graded assignments are designed to work towards mastery of MCPS indicators through timely and specific feedback. They are included on the report card as a learning skill in areas of participation and work completion and is represented on the report card by consistent (C), often (O), seldom (S), rarely (R) and not observed (NA).

Mastery: Graded assignments will reflect **individual** achievement of MCPS indicators. They are included on the report card and all assignments as a **percentage scale of A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, and E=0-59%**. Your assignments will fall into three categories: *Formative Assessments 65%, Summative Assessments 25%, and Homework 10%*.

Types of Assignments for both learning and practice and mastery may include:

- ☀ Tests and quizzes
- ☀ Presentations
- ☀ Inquiry projects
- ☀ Use of technology
- ☀ Class work and homework
- ☀ Projects (individual & group)
- ☀ Safety assessment
- ☀ Keeping a science journal
- ☀ Reading and writing explorations
- ☀ Entrance and exit cards
- ☀ Anchor activities
- ☀ Article reviews
- ☀ Lab reports
- ☀ Lab activities/ investigations
- ☀ Research explorations
- ☀ Making and using models

Overall: Grades will reflect individual achievement of the MCPS standards for a specific marking period.

Learning Skills:

- Learning Skills scores will be divided into two categories: participation (asking questions, giving ideas, using feedback, engaging in learning) and task completion (completing homework, class work, and labs).
- Data will be collected to monitor progress in these two categories. This information will appear on the student progress report.

Late work and Missing Work:

- Each assignment will have a **due date**. This is the date by which you are expected to submit the assignment. Your grade may drop one letter grade if it is not turned in by the due date.
- The **deadline** is the last day an assignment will be accepted for a grade. Work not turned in by the deadline will be considered **missing and receive a 0%**.
- **Most Homework will be due the next class period.**

Reassessment of Student Work:

Assessments may be reassessed one time, and may be reassessed partially, entirely, or in a different format. The reassessment grade replaces the original grade. The following assessments may not be reassessed:

- Unit, Chapter, or Semester Exams
- Research Reports
- Long Term Projects (example: Inquiry Project)

Students may be reassessed on other types of *formative* assignments if they meet the following requirements:

- Reflect on the assignment to be reassessed,
- Complete the original assessment,
- Complete re-teaching/re-learning activities as determined with the teacher, and schedule reassessment within instructional unit or deadline.

Extra Credit: There will be no extra credit.

Supplies: In order to do your best work in class, it is essential that you bring the following items to class everyday:

- Your Baker assignment book
- Science Journal
- Loose-leaf notebook paper
- Colored pencils
- Sharpened pencils with erasers (at least 2)
- Calculator
- Highlighter

Communication:

- Student handbook / Science Journals
- Progress reports / Interims
- E-mail: Donna_K_Wood@fc.mcps.k12.md.us
- Edline on Baker Website: <http://bakermrs.org> for homework and announcements
- Report Cards

Please sign and return to your teacher by 9/09/09.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____