



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Science Syllabus

### COURSE OUTCOME:

- **Course Description:**

Science seeks to explain the complexity of the natural world and uses this understanding to make valid and useful predictions. It is a process of gathering knowledge about the natural world. The HONORS curriculum exceeds the content standards, learning expectations, and performance indicators approved by the State Board of Education. Students enrolled in HONORS courses must meet and maintain minimum criteria established by the state and Knox County Schools.

- **Curriculum:**

8<sup>th</sup> grade science standards can be located at <http://www.tn.gov/education/ci/sci/index.shtml>

### INSTRUCTION:

- **Skills Covered and General Pacing:**

- ✓ Inquiry (taught throughout the year)
- ✓ Technology & Engineering (taught throughout the year)
- ✓ Biodiversity and Change (Approximately 6 weeks)
- ✓ Matter (Approximately 15 weeks)
- ✓ Forces in Nature (Approximately 6 weeks)

- **Materials Needed:**

Textbook/online textbook, agenda, pencils and pens (dark blue or black ink), highlighters, single subject college-rule spiral interactive notebook, college-rule notebook paper, graph paper, calculator (optional).

- **Fees:**

There are no additional fees required for this course.

- **Resources:**

- ✓ Holt McDougal: *Holt Science and Technology Tennessee 8<sup>th</sup> grade*
- ✓ Myhrw.com – students will receive log-in information for the online textbook.
- ✓ Ancillary resources include: Students may view a variety of county-approved videos including those from our media center, science department, or from Discovery Ed, Discovery Streaming Online, National Geographic.com, and other sources for this material.

- **Safety Procedures:**

Students must read and discuss lab safety, get a lab safety contract signed, and pass a lab safety test before participating in lab activities. **Violation of safety rules will result in removal from lab activities.**

### ASSESSMENTS:

- **Competencies:**

This curriculum is developed for on-grade level 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

- **Knox County Grading Policy:**

The Knox County Grading Scale will be used.

A=93-100, B=85-92, C=75-84, D=70-74, F=69 and below

- **Grading Distribution:**

Student grades will be weighted as follows:

**1<sup>st</sup> semester**

Formative assessments 20% (interactive notebook, homework)

Quizzes & Labs 20% (Quizzes, labs, and lab reports)

Summative assessments 50% (Tests)

Honors Mid-Term 10%

**2<sup>nd</sup> semester**

Formative assessments 50%

-Daily Tasks, Quizzes & Labs

Summative assessments 50%

\*TCAP 15% (2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)

**No extra credit will be given as per Knox County Policy.**

- **Assignments:**

- ✓ **Assignments will be posted on the board daily for the students to copy into their agenda. They will also be posted weekly on the School Fusion website.**
- ✓ Interactive science notebooks will be used for class assignments. Students must keep the notebook up to date. In the event of notebook loss, students must recreate all pages in the notebook in order to receive full credit.

- ✓ Assignments will be given on a daily basis. A new concept cannot be fully understood until it has been applied in problem solving. The students will be given some class time to work on their assignments. If they do not complete the assignment in class, it becomes homework.
  - ✓ Unit test will be given throughout the year. Dates will be posted on Parent Portal in advance.
  - ✓ Quizzes will be announced and unannounced.
  - ✓ Students will participate and/or observe lab activities throughout the year. Students must read and discuss lab safety, get a lab safety contract signed, and pass a lab safety test before participating in lab activities.
- Violation of safety rules will result in removal from lab activities.**

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion—and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective and respectful manner in accordance with the following:

1. Music, art, literature, or drama with a religious theme or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
2. The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature and history shall be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies shall never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs; and
3. Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to express religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech and debate.

- **Online Gradebook Post Policy:**

One way in which I communicate with the student and parent is through the Online Gradebook. In order to give timely feedback, I will generally update grades at least once per week.

- **Cedar Bluff Middle School Grading Policy:**

**Collecting and completing absent and late work is the student's responsibility.**

**Absent Work:** According to KCS policy, a student will have 3 days upon return to school to **request** a missed assignment. One day will be given for each day missed for **completing** make-up work. For example, John is absent Monday. He collects his make-up work on Tuesday. The assignment is due Wednesday. After that due date, the assignment is late. Students receive full credit for work completed by the due date.

**Late Work:** Work becomes late when the student does not submit the completed assignment by the stated due date. Late work will be accepted for reduced credit for two weeks from the date the assignment was given or until the content is evaluated, whichever deadline is first. Once the content is evaluated, work from that unit and/or lesson will no longer be accepted for credit. Late work will be assessed with the highest possible score potential of 80%. Late work of poor quality will not be accepted for credit.

**Retakes:** When students are offered the opportunity to retake an assignment/test, students will have 5 school days in which to schedule the retake. In order to be eligible for a retake the students must complete all of their assignments and/or an action plan. The grade earned on the retake will replace the initial grade.

**Emergency Situations:** In recognition of emergency situations, teachers will use professional judgment and student history to determine if an exception to this policy is in order. If an exemption is granted, the teacher will set a reasonable deadline for work completion and submission.

**Extra Credit:** Grades should reflect mastery of skills; as a result, no extra credit is offered.

\*IEP mandates precede school policy.

**GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:**

- **Students:**

- ✓ Attendance to all classes is mandatory. Concepts taught each day build on the previous day. If an absence does occur, the student is responsible for getting all missing assignments.
- ✓ Classroom Policies correlate to CBMS's school-wide behavior plan. Rewards and discipline strictly abide by the school policy.
- ✓ Eighth grade discipline guidelines will be followed. (See Eighth Grade Discipline sheet sent home with homeroom materials.)

- **Honor code:**
  - ✓ Each student will work to his/her full potential.
  - ✓ Each student will treat all members of the class with respect.
  - ✓ Each student will be honest and consider the integrity of his/her actions.
  - ✓ Students engaged in cheating may receive a 0 on the assignment/test and be subject to disciplinary action. Cheating is any type of communication during an independent activity or claiming someone else's work. This includes plagiary on research assignments, and sharing assignments during homeroom, class, or after school.
- **Teacher Communication Strategy:**
  - ✓ Email: Alex Walls- [alex.walls@knoxschools.org](mailto:alex.walls@knoxschools.org)
  - ✓ Phone: (865) 539-7891
  - ✓ **All parent conferences are scheduled through the school office. Conferences will be made with a students' entire team of teachers between 8:30-10:00.**
- **Intervention Strategy:**
  - ✓ Tutoring will be before and after school by appointment.
  - ✓ Study-buddies are a great way to complete assignments and study for exams.

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

Please read through the syllabus and sign below indicating that you understand the curriculum and class policies for 8<sup>th</sup> grade science.

Thank you,

Alex Walls

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I have received the **Eighth Grade Science Syllabus**, and I am aware that my child has been informed about laboratory safety guidelines at Cedar Bluff Middle School and that he/she has agreed to comply with all classroom and safety rules and regulations. In the space provided, I have listed any special health considerations (latex allergies, medical problems, etc.) or information pertaining to my child that is relevant to science class.

Allergies or medical issues:
Questions for the teachers:

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

The lab activities we will complete this year require materials that are not covered by student fees. Please indicate one item listed below if you would be willing to donate to the classroom. Have your child bring the item to school. These supplies will be used to enrich your child's science work throughout the year. Thank you!

- \_\_\_\_\_ **4 D batteries**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **plastic spoons and forks**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **gallon of distilled water**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **box of baking soda**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **box of gallon Ziploc bags**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **box of sandwich sized Ziploc bags**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **large package of paper plates**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **package of 18 oz. plastic cups**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **package of 8 oz clear plastic cups**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **package of 3 oz plastic cups (bathroom)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **roll of aluminum foil**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **roll of wax paper**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **box of straws**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **roll of paper towels**