

Mrs. Kvaale's 8th Grade Science Syllabus

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Topics Covered

Physical Science

- Develop and use a model to demonstrate that atoms and molecules can be combined or rearranged in **chemical reactions** to form new compounds with the total number of each type of atom conserved.
- Obtain and evaluate information regarding how scientists identify substances based on unique **physical and chemical properties**.
- Construct an explanation on how **energy can be transferred from one energy store to another**.
- Develop and use mathematical models to explain **wave characteristics and interactions**.
- Develop a solution to increase efficiency when **transferring energy** from one source to another.

Earth Science

- Analyze and interpret data about the **Earth's geological column** to communicate relative ages of rock layers and fossils.
- Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about data and historical patterns to predict **natural hazards and other geological events**.
- Construct and support an argument about how **human consumption of limited resources** impacts the biosphere.

Life Science

- Construct an explanation of how **genetic variations** occur in offspring through the **inheritance of traits** or through mutations
- Communicate how advancements in technology have furthered the field of **genetic research** and use evidence to support an argument about the positive and negative effects of genetic research on human lives.
- Develop and use a model to explain how **natural selection** may lead to increases and decreases of specific traits in populations over time.
- Gather and communicate evidence on how the process of natural selection provides an explanation of how new species can **evolve**.

Policies

Gradebook/Assignments

- 70% Tests and Quizzes
- 30% Classwork

Preparedness

- Students must come to class prepared every day with:
 - ◆ A **charged** chromebook
 - ◆ Headphones
 - ◆ Pencil/pen

Homework

- Homework is not assigned unless a student did not finish classwork during their class period.

Classwork/Notes

- Almost all classwork is assigned on Canvas and can be found there.
- Students may choose to have an online notebook through Google Drive or have a composition notebook to take notes in. It is **very important** that students take diligent notes.

Projects

- Minor projects will be assigned periodically throughout the quarter.
- Major projects will have clear requirements and a timeline for due dates. These will be outlined on a paper that each student will receive. Due dates may be changed due to any extenuating circumstances, but students will be made aware of these changes.

Tests/Quizzes

- There will be one summative test per unit.
- Quizzes will be given often throughout the quarter.
- Students may retake unit exams after doing additional review/practice or receiving individual assistance rather than completing test corrections. The retesting must be done on the students' own time and completed within ten school days from the original exam date. The new exam grade will be the higher score.

Late Work

- Late work is accepted no more than 2 weeks after the due date.
- Speak to me directly if there are any concerns or extenuating circumstances.

Online Access:

- Canvas is the online platform for instruction where students will complete assignments and quizzes. It is important to check my Canvas page if you are absent to see if there is an assignment or quiz you need to make up.
- **Do not check grades on Canvas. Grades are to be checked on PowerSchool only. The grades in Canvas are often different from the final grade in PowerSchool.**
- Grades and attendance may be accessed 24 hours a day online with your PowerSchool access code. Access codes are available in the Administration Office Monday – Friday 7:00 – 3:30. You must provide a picture ID to be issued a code.
- My Desert Sky website has helpful information as well and can be found in the “Staff Websites” page of the Desert Sky website.

Behavior

- I strive to create a classroom environment where my students feel comfortable, respected, and valued. I encourage communication from my students on how they are feeling about the culture of our classroom.
- My expectations boil down to two major ideas: Respect and Effort.
 - Respect me, your peers, our classroom, and yourself every day
 - Give 100% effort. This means you are on task, actively listening, and participating in the lesson
- Students that are not following my expectations will be given a warning. If a student chooses not to correct their behavior after receiving a warning there will be consequences assigned. Consequences could include being removed from class, lunch detention, or after-school detention. If a consequence is assigned, you will be notified.
- In addition, all Desert Sky and DVUSD policies will be followed (gum, hats, phones, etc.). Consequences for not following expectations will be in alignment with Desert Sky policies. See page 28 in your Student Handbook for more details regarding consequences.

Mrs. Kvaale's Syllabus Signature Page

Student and Parent Acknowledgement

I understand...

1. It is my duty to come to class prepared with necessary materials
 1. Pen or pencil to complete assignments
 2. ISN and THINK question notebook

*If I cannot afford above materials, I will notify Mrs. Kvaale.

1. I am to be respectful of myself, my classmates, school property, district policies and Mrs. Kvaale at all times.
2. Grades will be based on tests, quizzes, classwork, lab notebooks, and projects.
3. Finishing all assigned work is MY responsibility—if I engage in “off task” behavior and my work does not get completed, then it must be completed at home or it will be graded as unfinished.
4. Multiple acts of defiance, disruption, disrespect will result in disciplinary action by Mrs. Kvaale and/or administration according to the school and district discipline policies in the handbook.

Parent/Guardian

I am the parent/guardian of the aforementioned student and have read and understand the syllabus and policies regarding grading and behavior. I understand that I may contact Mrs. Kvaale via email or telephone questions, comments or concerns about my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent email: _____

Phone: _____

Student

I, _____ (student name), have read and understand the syllabus and agree to follow the policies and procedures set forth by Mrs. Kvaale.

Student Signature _____

Date _____