YOUNG WOMEN'S Leadership Academy

8th Grade Honors Science 2026-2027
Instructional Plan

Created on August 7, 2026

Contact Information

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What is Honors?

Honors courses feature grade-level instruction intended to give all students the opportunity for growth. The courses serve as an important part of a tiered academic pathway by offering more rigorous instruction and deeper learning than standard courses. A focused framework, instructional support, model lessons, and classroom assessments are used to help students develop skills that will enable them to continue success in AP courses, college, and careers.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Eighth grade science is an exciting year that focuses on building a strong foundation in the four major science disciplines: Life, Physical, Earth & Space, and Chemistry, while incorporating scientific and engineering practices. Students will explore topics like matter, energy, forces, motion, plate tectonics, stars and galaxies, as well as human impact on the environment. The curriculum emphasizes hands-on investigations, data analysis, engineering skills incorporation, and critical thinking/ writing to prepare students for more advanced science courses when they reach high school.

COURSE ACTIVITIES

Below you will find descriptions of the most common activities that students will participate in during each semester.

Throughout the year, students will:

- Work through hands-on labs to stimulate curiosity and student engagement
- Participate in activities that include close analysis, cause and effect understanding, as well as the implementation of best scientific method and safety practices
- Participate in the YWLA School Science Fair (OPTIONAL)
- Conduct critical, evidence-based written responses
- Construction and analysis of models
- Engage in academic conversation
- Advanced practice using computer software such as Google Slides and Canva to showcase investigations or information
- Create maps, graphs, and tables from investigation data
- Complete occasional homework if work is not completed in class

GRADES - Click here for → YWLA Grading Policy

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Classroom Resources (examples below)

- Teacher and student-created materials
- Google Classroom
- "*Science Duo*" resources
- *Gimkit*
- *Khan Academy*
- *"Generation Genius"* videos
- *"Crash Course Chemistry, Biology, Ecology, Earth Science"* videos on YouTube
- *TEKS Resources*
- *Kessler Science*
- *AIMS* (Activities In Math and Science)

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND TOPICS

- Chemistry & Matter
- Universal Forces, Newton's Laws, & Energy
- Earth's environments and movements
- Space: Galaxies and Stars
- Life Science, including Ecology

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I am excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!

Mrs. Farrer
