SPU Science
Syllabus 2026- 2027

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Supplies

Students will need one spiral notebook at least 70 pages that will be for Science only. Students should also have a space for important papers, either a binder tab or a folder. The middle school supply list for all classes can be found below. Students should carry these supplies with them every day.

- ☐ #2 pencils, sharpened
- ☐ 1 medium-sized eraser
- ☐ 1 box of colored pencils
- ☐ 1 highlighter
- ☐ 1 pair of scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Ruler (with inches and centimeters)
- ☐ 3x5 index cards
- ☐ Folder/Binder/Files with 6 tabs
- ☐ Headphones/earbuds to use with Chromebooks *for school purposes only*

All students:
Please bring a water bottle labeled with your name (Glass water bottles are not allowed.)
Phones and other electronics are not allowed on campus.

Curriculum

STEMscopes allows students to engage in real-world science through hands-on, inquiry-based activities that are aligned with NGSS standards. Students are expected to follow the district policies regarding computer use during instruction.

Grading Policies

Academic Grade:

The Science academic grade is based on student work and assessments. Tests and CERs are worth double the weight of quizzes. We value academic integrity. Copying or cheating on **any** assignment, including homework, will result in disciplinary action.

89.5%-100% A 79.5-89.4% B 69.5-79.4% C 59.5-69.4% D 0-59.4% F

Assignment Category	Weighted Percentage In Academic Grade
Assignments / Labs / Homework	**50%**
Quizzes, Tests, and CERs	**50%**

Late assignments/absences:
Absent students have two weeks to turn in missing work and will receive full credit. Late work will be accepted for two weeks after the due date and will earn a reduced credit. It is the **students' responsibility** to find out what assignment(s) they missed while absent. Please make every effort to schedule vacations and appointments outside of the school day.

Exams:
If you score below a 70%, you may discuss with your teacher whether a retake or additional work is available. You must reach out to your teacher within a week.

Corrections/Feedback:
I will work hard to give you lots of feedback and opportunities to redo your work. Be sure to take advantage of these to advance your understanding and your grades.

Citizenship Grade:

A Citizenship Grade reflects a student's promptness, attitude, effort, and behavior in class over the course of the trimester. At SPU, "Saints SOAR!" They are Safe, On-task, Accepting, and Respectful.

Our classrooms will support learning through a positive approach to classroom management that values group work, perseverance, and emotional and physical safety. General expectations include following school rules, being respectful, being responsible, and contributing to the learning environment. Rewards and consequences will be assigned as appropriate.

Outstanding (O): shows outstanding behavior at all times
Satisfactory (S): shows acceptable behavior for a learning environment
Needs Improvement (N): shows behavior that needs improvement
Unsatisfactory (U): shows behavior that is unsatisfactory in a learning environment

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Overview of Science Topics

We use the NGSS integrated middle school approach, which allows students in grades 6-8 explore a range of science topics, building on their elementary school foundation and deepening their understanding of life, earth, and physical sciences. They develop scientific and engineering practices like modeling, data analysis, and constructing explanations, while also applying crosscutting concepts to connect different areas of science.

Grade 6 focuses on Earth and life sciences. Topics include systems and subsystems in Earth and life science; Earth system interactions and weather; causes and effects of regional climates; effects of global warming on living systems; and cell theory, structure, and human body systems.

Grade 7 focuses on life science and Earth's resources. Topics include matter and atoms in living and nonliving things; matter cycles and energy flow in organisms and ecosystems; photosynthesis and chemical reactions in nature; natural processes and human impacts on resources; and sustaining biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Grade 8 focuses on physical science and the universe. Topics include forces, motion, objects moving, and colliding; noncontact forces (magnetic, electrical, gravitational); waves and energy transfer applications; evidence of evolution and natural selection; and Earth's place in the universe and human environmental challenges.

Overall, the integrated approach in middle school aims to show students how different science disciplines are interconnected and how scientific knowledge can be applied to real-world problems and engineering solutions.

I have read and understand the course syllabus.

Parent/Guardian(s) Signature:_____

Student Name: _____

Student Cohort: _____

Student Signature:_____