

Middle School Course Syllabus Grade 8 Science

School:
Teacher's Name:
Room Number:
Best time to contact:
Phone number:
Email address:

Course Description: Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD) science students will engage in collaborative, inquiry-based investigations through questioning, modeling, analyzing data, and constructing explanations based on evidence. The major topics of Grade 8 science include the core ideas of physical science from the middle school Next Generation Science Standards. Students will use the following topics to organize their learning:

- Structure of Matter
- Chemical reactions
- Forces and motion
- Definitions of energy
- Conservation and transfer of energy
- Relationships between energy and forces
- Energy in chemical processes and everyday live
- Wave properties
- Electromagnetic radiation
- Information technologies

Course Standards: This course is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which were adopted by the KUSD School Board in June 2014. They are available at this web site:
<http://www.nextgenscience.org/>

Lifelong Learning Standards: School Board Policy 6418 outlines the following standards for life long learning: Knowledgeable Learner, Complex Thinker, Effective Communicator, Self-Directed Learner, Quality Producer, Contributing Citizen,

The Essential Questions of Grade 8 Science:

- How can one explain the structure, properties, and interactions of matter?
- How can one explain and predict interactions between objects and within systems of objects?
- How is energy transferred and conserved?
- How are waves used to transfer energy and information?
- How are engineering, technology, and society connected to physical science?

In addition, students will be able to:

- Use the core ideas of physical science to create explanations of phenomena from everyday life.
- Use science and engineering practices to plan and carry out investigations.
- Effectively communicate their learning.

KUSD School Board-Approved Instructional Materials:

Holt Science and Technology Short Courses:

- *Forces, Motion and Energy*
- *Sound and Light*
- *Electricity and Magnetism*
- *Forces, Motion and Energy*
- *Introduction to Matter*
- *Interactions of Matter*

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Methods of Assessment:

Multiple assessments, both formative and summative will be used to help students achieve course standards.

Formative assessment is a process used by teachers and students during instruction that provides feedback to adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve student' achievement of intended instructional outcomes. Formative assessments are seldom used as part of a final grade calculation. **Summative assessment** is designed to provide information regarding the level of mastery of the course standards. *

Examples of formative assessment used in this course: homework, class response, and laboratory investigations.

Examples of summative assessment used in this course: quizzes, unit tests, and projects.

KUSD School Board-Approved Grading Scale:

A+ = 98 – 100%	B+ = 86 – 89%	C+ = 76 - 79 %	D+ = 66 - 69 %
A = 93 – 97%	B = 83 – 85%	C = 73 - 75 %	D = 63 - 65 %
A- = 90 – 92%	B- = 80 – 82%	C- = 70 - 72 %	D- = 60 - 62 %
F = below 60%			

KUSD School Board Policy on Make-Up Work:

Students submitting work up to ten school days late, without prior approval, may receive up to two grades lower on the work than they would have received if the work had been submitted on time (i.e., B+ lowered to a D+). Student work submitted after ten school days, without prior approval, shall not be accepted for credit and shall be recorded with a score of zero (0).

Upon returning to school after an absence, a student has the responsibility, within the number of days equal to the length of the absence or suspension, to meet with the teacher to develop a plan for making up missed work, quizzes, and examinations. A truant student has the responsibility, on the first day he or she returns to the course/class, to meet with the teacher to develop a plan for making up missed work, quizzes, and examinations. Lower grades may not be given for late work due to excused absences, suspension or truancy, unless the work is submitted later than agreed upon deadlines.

Student and Parent Resources:

The textbook used for Grade 8 Science is available on-line at my.hrw.com. The site is password protected. Students will receive unique passwords from their teachers.

Teacher/Parent Communication:

Every effort will be made by the teacher to respond to inquiries from pupils and from parents or guardians of pupils by the end of the first school day following the day upon which the inquiry is received. (Developed as a parallel to State Statute 118.40(8)(d)3.)

Posting of Grades:

Every effort will be made by the teacher to post grades on the student information system for review by parents and students within five to seven school days. (Long-range, major projects may require additional time for evaluation.) Missing work should be indicated within two school days of the due date.

*Excerpts taken from “Distinguishing Formative Assessment From Other Educational Assessment Labels” by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The article can be viewed at: <http://www.ccsso.org/Documents/FASTLabels.pdf>