

# Mrs. Underwood's Class Syllabus 2011-2012

**Course Description:** The eighth grade science curriculum is part of the South Carolina integrated curriculum. This curriculum includes reading comprehension, mathematics, critical thinking, problem solving and research skills are emphasized in various content areas. The curriculum is a combination of physical science, astronomy, geology and life science.

## **Learning goals:**

1. Students will utilize the scientific method to identify and solve problems, apply science process skills to everyday situations, work cooperatively to achieve common goals, make connections between science concepts and current events, connect science and technology using computers and laboratory equipment, make scientific observations through the writing process, and see how different sciences are dependent on each other.
2. Students will understand the processes of life and how interactions of organisms with their environment usually result in adaptations and change over time.
3. Students will understand the process and interactions of earth and space systems and how they relate to the dynamics of our atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere and solar system.
4. Students will understand the nature and interactions of forces and matter, which determine the motions of bodies and how these interactions influence daily life and our perception of the world and its place in the solar system.
5. Students will understand the history of life on Earth, the applications of science and technology and how human activity impacts our world and the things living in it.
6. Students will understand and use process skills such as observation, classification, measurement, inferring, and presenting data.
7. Students will design, conduct and evaluate investigations using scientific equipment and terminology and demonstrate scientific reasoning and logic

**Instructional Units and Sequencing:** This schedule is subject to change. Standardized tests and student needs will impact the flow and sequencing of these units. Pacing and curriculum standards will be followed according to the district's curriculum guidelines.

## **WHAT WE WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT:**

\*These are the standard headings that we will be covering as required by the State. There are many sub topics that we will be covering under each of these major topics.

- a. **The Scientific Method**
- b. **Earth's Biological History**
- c. **Earth's Structure and Processes**
- d. **Astronomy**
- e. **Forces and Motion**

f. Waves

**We will be using the Glenco South Carolina Science Grade 8 Textbook.**

**Damage Fees:** Students may be charged for damages to lockers and textbooks. Please be responsible!!

**Required Materials for Class:**

1. Paper
2. Pencils and erasers
3. Textbook-can be left at home

**\*\*Donations of the following would be greatly appreciated:** Dry erase markers, tissues, hand sanitizer, glue sticks, colored pencils, large pink erasers, #2 pencils.

**Expectations for Mrs. Underwood's Classroom:**

**\*\*All school rules apply (i.e.: no head gear, no eating/candy or drinking in class, no electronic devices, etc.) You are responsible for knowing and complying with the School District of Greenville County policies in your handbook, please read them.\*\***

**Classroom Procedures:**

1. Students are expected to enter class quietly and complete the warm-up activity.
2. Homework is assigned on Monday and is due at the beginning of class on Friday. Students are responsible for each day's work, present or not. Homework must be complete and legible.
3. Sharpen pencils and throw away trash before class begins.
4. During teacher-led activities, listen actively. During group work or pair share, contribute wisely.
5. Copy assignments and make sure directions are understood before leaving the class.
6. Use your manners. RESPECT yourself & each other: No put downs, no slang terms.
7. Line up in alphabetical order to turn in your work.
8. All book bags and non-pertinent belongings need to be placed under the lab sinks upon your arrival to class. Ladies, I will allow purses to be placed under your desk/chair, as long as you leave the walking path clear.
9. Reading is a "Must Do" in my class. You should have a library book with you at all times. If you do not have one you may borrow one from the Reading Counter and place it back at the end of class. I expect you to read when you are finished with quizzes, tests, ect. You are not to socialize or do work for other classes. Expand your knowledge!!!
10. Write down all power point notes given. I use the textbook as supplemental material.

### **Behavior Guidelines:**

1. Cooperate with your teacher and peers.
2. Respect the rights and property of others.
3. Carry out your student responsibilities.
4. Cell phones should be off and in lockers.
5. No eating or drinking in the classroom/lab.
6. Follow all RMS rules and expectations.

*Any behavior that interferes with the learning of self or others cannot be allowed and will be dealt with accordingly and consistently.*

### **Consequences:**

Any infraction of the rules stated above or in the student handbook must be confronted. A warning will be given. If any further action is necessary, it will usually occur in the following order:

1. Warning
2. Parent Contact
3. Teacher Consequence
4. Teacher Consequence/Detention
5. Referral (immediate for extreme actions)

**Late work policy:** All assignments are to be brought to class and turned in on time. Homework that is not turned in at the beginning of class is considered late. I assign homework for the week on Monday and it is due at the beginning of class on Friday. This process helps students manage their time and gives them the opportunity to participate in sports and after school activities. Homework that is turned in at the end of class or a day late will receive a 30 point reduction. Work turned in a week late will receive a 50 point reduction. This policy is to help your student start preparing for high school credit classes where no late work is accepted.

**Makeup Work:** Students are expected to be in class; however, students will be allowed to make up work from an excused or prearranged absence. It is the student's responsibility to schedule make up tests and complete other assignments within 5 days of the excused absence.

**Absences:** It is **your responsibility** to get any work you have missed and to **turn in any assignment collected during your absence** when you return. Please arrange a time to see me for additional help. Please make an appointment to see me for additional help if needed on missed assignments. Makeup assignments will be placed in the back of the room in the class period's make up work folder. It is the student's responsibility to check it! **You are responsible** for makeup tests/quizzes/labs missed; **you must come to me** to arrange make-ups the day you return with an excused absence. Test/quizzes must be made up when you return or make arrangements with me for an excused, extended illness. **Please follow the**

**procedures in the handbook. If you fail to make up assignments you will earn a zero.**

## **GRADING**

### **Minor Assessments: 50%**

**Quizzes, Homework, Lab Assignments, Class work, Participation**

### **Major Assessments: 50%**

**Tests, Projects, Exams, Presentations**

Grades based on subject-specific content, thinking/reasoning skills, communication skills; may include quizzes, writing assignments, oral presentations, laboratory write-up/reports, homework, class work, notes, and exams. Laboratory experiences will be designed to explore subject specific content.

- **Tests and quizzes:** All tests will be announced a minimum of three days in advance. Each chapter covered will have a test (major). Some tests will include a performance or practical part (lab-can be minor or major). Tests will include reading comprehension, calculations, graphs, charts, tables, vocabulary, writing, and will require critical thinking skills. These skills will be taught and practiced prior to testing. Most quizzes (minor) will be announced at least two days in advance. Any reading assignment can be covered in an unannounced quiz. There will occasionally be a pop-quiz to ensure students are taking their notes and keeping up with the material.

**Exam Exemptions:** Students must make a 93% or better each quarter to exempt the final exam. Exams in high school credit courses may not be exempted.

### **Grading Scale:**

A= 93-100

B= 85-92

C= 77-84

D= 70-76

F= 69 and Below