

**Riverside Middle School**  
**Mrs. Colette O'Connell M. Ed. Science Education, B.S. Biology**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Syllabus**  
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*I am pleased to be part of the Riverside Middle School community of learners. I adhere to the academic standards set forth in the student handbook. I am here to promote academic excellence. Standards for academic performance are necessary to successfully accomplish this goal. I will use various teaching strategies and assessments to match the learning strengths and weakness of my students. All of our Science classes at RMS are heterogeneously grouped. Please e-mail or call me for any concerns you wish to discuss. All conferences are scheduled through the guidance office. I look forward to working with you and your student(s).*

**Course Description:** The eighth grade science curriculum is part of the South Carolina integrated curriculum. 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.

**Techbook:** Discovery Education Online Techbook

**Instructional Units and Sequencing:** This schedule is subject to change. Numbers in parentheses refer to South Carolina state science curriculum standards which can be found at [myschools.com](http://myschools.com) and [greenville.k12.sc.us](http://greenville.k12.sc.us). Standardized tests and student needs will impact the flow and sequencing of these units.

**Units of Study:**

1. **Forces and Motion 8.P.2:** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the effects of forces on the motion and stability of an object.
2. **Waves 8.P.3** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the properties and behaviors of waves.
3. **Science and Engineering Practices 8.P.1: and 8.S.1**
4. **Earth's Systems and Resources 8.E.5** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the processes that alter the structure of Earth and provide resources for life on the planet.
5. **Earth's History and Diversity of Life 8.E.6** The student will demonstrate an understanding of Earth's geologic history and its diversity of life over time.
6. **Earth's Place in The Universe 8.E.4** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the universe and the predictable patterns caused by Earth's movement in the solar system.

**End of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter** will be a final review and cumulative exam (major grade).

According to the School District of Greenville County Grade Weighting, "Assessment is a key component of an instructional program." I will follow the guidelines set by the district for middle school Science.

The following table lists the weighting of assignments and a minimum number of assignments expected in each category (shown in parenthesis). Examples of assignments are also listed where appropriate.

Science	Minor 50%	Major 47%	Benchmark 3%
	Grades based on subject-specific content, thinking/reasoning skills, communication skills; may include quizzes, journals, informal writing assignments, informal oral presentations, informal laboratory write-up/reports, homework, class work, note taking skills, and video notes.	Grades based on subject-specific content knowledge, thinking/reasoning skills, and communication skills; may include tests, research based products, culminating products, major oral presentations, formal lab write-ups & presentations. Laboratory experiences will be designed to explore subject specific content.	<b>3 Benchmarks</b> every 9 weeks District generated District scored * Benchmarks will be cumulative. <b>1<sup>st</sup> – October 27, 2017</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> – January 16, 2018</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> – March 23, 2018</b> <b>Final Exam is cumulative.</b>

**Tests and quizzes:** All tests will be announced a minimum of 3 to 5 days in advance. Each chapter covered will have a test (major). Some tests will include a performance or practical part. 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 one (1) day in advance. Any reading assignment can be covered in an unannounced quiz. Information covered in class should be reviewed nightly. Materials covered in the previous days class can be covered in an unannounced quiz.

**Benchmark Test:** 9 week cumulative tests will be given at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter marking periods. The test will include course materials during that quarter.

**Labs:** are major grades. A printable lab template is located on this web site. Labs are conducted in class but occasionally lab write-ups are completed at home. Labs are considered complete and gradable only when all lab paperwork is returned.

**\*\* Playing in the lab will result in a zero for the lab and removal to another teacher's room. An alternate assignment will be given and you may earn up to seventy points for the correct completion of that assignment. You will be responsible for any content covered in the lab. Endangering another student will result in a referral to the office.**

**Homework assignments:** are posted on web site by each Monday morning. Students are required to fill out their weekly assignments in their agendas each Monday upon entering class. I will sign any agenda, students just need to ask.

**Scientific Stems:** all students were given a hard copy of the scientific stems with quiz and test dates in the far right column. Students should study their stems throughout the week in preparation for assessment. The Stems list can be found on this web site should students lose their hard copy.

**Late work policy:** All assignments are to be brought to class and turned in on time. Please refer to the RMS Student-Parent Handbook that states, "Assignments left at home or in the locker may not be accepted."

The parent must contact me should this situation arise. Please pre-plan for computer/printer issues when working on projects. (Refer to the student handbook in agenda). Please email if circumstances arise to impede the completion of any work, I can be reached by email: [coconnel@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:coconnel@greenville.k12.sc.us)

**Absences:** Follow the procedures in your handbook. 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. You are responsible for make-up tests/quizzes/labs missed: you must come to me to arrange make-ups the day you return with an excused absence note from the office. Test/quizzes must be made up when you return or make arrangements with me for an excused, extended illness. Missed work needs to be made up within 5 days return from an absence. Please follow the procedures in the handbook. If you fail to make up assignments you will earn a zero.

**Class Excuse/ Tardy Policy:** You are expected to be on time for class, bring all materials every day and stay for the entire class. Restroom visits are to take place between classes. Students may go to their locker between classes, exchange books and arrive to class on time, ample time is allotted for restroom and locker trips between class change. All medical situations that are verified through the nurse and administration will be honored. Students must sign in to the tardy book when arriving late and not disturb the learning environment. Please read the tardy policy in the handbook. The tardy policy will be part of the 4-step discipline plan.

**Extra Help:** I am available most days after school (barring any after school meetings) for extra help. Students should make arrangement by coming to speak to me to check on availability after school from 3:15-3:45. A pass must be obtained and transportation arrangements must be made in advance to stay before or after school for extra help.

**Rules:**

- \* Be on time & prepared: bring required materials to class every day, readings, homework, paper, pencil/pen etc.
- \* Enter class, get materials ready for days work and begin starter on the board.
- \* RESPECT yourself & each other: No put downs, no slang terms, no bullying. Please and thank you go a long way.
- \* Listen to directions & follow them the first time.
- \* All school rules apply (*i.e.: no head gear, no eating/candy or drinking in class, etc.*)

**YOU are responsible for knowing and complying with the School District of Greenville County and Riverside Middle School rules & policies in your handbook. Please read them.**

**Consequences:**

A verbal warning will be given the first time a student does not follow the rules.

Failure to correct the problem will result in a parent contact.

If the disruptive behavior continues a parent conference and/or an administrative referral will follow.

Severe disruptions will be sent immediately to an administrator without a warning to the student.

A learning environment will be maintained at all times.

- **Required Materials:**
- **An INEXPENSIVE pair of earphones to be used when using Chromebooks and accessing Discovery Education (DE) Techbooks.**
- **3 ring binder- may be shared with other subjects (subject dividers help with organizations of binders).**
- **Binder to share with other subjects for one chapter's work - until that chapter is turned in on test day.**
- **#2 pencils for all classes, for testing with grade-cam and standardized test**
- **Loose leaf notebook paper- your choice: college/wide rule**
- **2 Composition books for Science Journals – 1 per semester**
- **Pencils for all of your math and lab work. Blue or black ink is accepted for your notes and vocabulary.**
- **Colored pencils- in a pouch or baggie when the box falls apart (as they always do)**
- **Glue Sticks /tape for Journals**
- **Highlighter(s)**
- **Calculator-basic functions**

**Classroom Needs: any supplies you can send in would be greatly appreciated.**

**Clorox wipes**

**Paper Towels**

**Tissues – Kleenex**

**Grading: All 8th grade students must take final exams no exemptions for grades, no exceptions. 10 point grading scale, 50 grade floor for all assignments, assignments not turned in (NHI) must be completed for late grades. Late grades are accepted until close of each quarter. Late grades for work start at 75.**

**Grading scale:**

<b>A</b>	<b>= 90-100</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>= 80-89</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>= 70-79</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>= 60-69</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>= 50-59</b>