



## Stillman Middle School

2977 W. Tandy Road  
(956) 698-1000

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science COURSE SYLLABUS

2023-2024 School Year

**TEACHER:** Mrs. N. Cavazos (D207)

**GRADE:** 8th

**SUBJECT:** Science

**E-MAIL:** [ncavazos@bisd.us](mailto:ncavazos@bisd.us)

**CONFERENCE TIME:** 2nd period (8:34-9:19 am)

Dear Parents:

I will be your child's eighth grade Science teacher this year. I am very excited to start this school year, as I know it will certainly bring many wonderful learning experiences for both your child and me. I firmly believe that in order for a student to reach his or her fullest potential the student must have the proper support at home and at school. A copy of our classroom guidelines and rules will be given to all students so that you may review them and have a good understanding of what is expected of them to be successful in this class. I want to establish a good working relationship with you as a parent(s), so if for whatever reason you want to contact me please call (956) 698-1000, leave a message, and I will return your call as soon as possible. I can also be reached via e-mail or through the Remind App. Thank you for your patience and support.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The Science 8<sup>th</sup> Grade course is divided into 4 categories:

1. Matter and energy. (Chemistry)
2. Force and motion. (Physics)
3. Earth and space. (Astronomy and Geology)
4. Living organisms. (Biology)

Students will also review concepts learned in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Science in order to prepare for the Science STAAR test.

#### **CLASS EXPECTATIONS:**

Success requires student commitment to the expectations:

- Learn, analyze, synthesis and manipulate knowledge and skills; think critically
- Budget time effectively and efficiently: including homework. Assignments must be completed by the assigned due date to receive full credit. Any work that is not completed in class will have to be completed as homework and turned in the following day;
- Develop effective study skills;
- Develop multi-media and oral presentation skills;
- Maintain a passing grade of 70.

## CLASSROOM RULES and CONSEQUENCES:

### Classroom rules:

1. Be on time. (Students are expected to be in their assigned seats and prepared to work when the bell rings)
2. Be prepared. (Students are expected to bring all appropriate materials to class each day)
3. Respect others and their property-including school property.
4. Stay on task and be focused. (Students are expected to thoughtfully complete all assignments, projects and all other associated class work in a timely manner)
5. Students are expected to adhere to classroom, campus and district rules, procedures, and policies including dress code guidelines.
6. Follow lab safety rules.

### Consequences:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – Warning – Redirect; Documentation on eSchoolPLUS
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – Teacher/Student Conference; Parent Notification; Documentation on eSchoolPLUS
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – Team ITS; Counselor Referral; Documentation on eSchoolPLUS
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Offense – Team/Parent Conference; Documentation on eSchoolPLUS
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Offense – Office Referral; Documentation on eSchoolPLUS
- \*Any Severe Disruption requires immediate office referral.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. A container of disinfecting wipes
2. A composition notebook
3. 2 Glue sticks
4. A box of tissues
5. 1 pocket folder (color according to class period)
6. Pack of index cards

**To be kept in backpack:** blue or black pens, pencils, crayons or markers.

## GRADING:

### 2023-2024 Secondary Grading Procedures

Each six weeks grade will reflect the academic progress of the student and will be determined as follow:

1. **40% Minor assessments.** These must include a minimum of five minor assessments per six weeks. Quizzes, assignments, homework, and notebooks may be considered daily assessments.
2. **60 % Major assessments.** This must include a minimum of three major assessments per six weeks. Examples of major assessments include, but are not restricted to: reports, research papers, tests and projects. Projects and/or subjective assignments will contain a rubric with clearly defined criteria.
3. The Semester Test will be given at the end of each semester and will count one-fourth of the total semester grade.

**Attendance:** 2023-2024 Secondary Grading Procedures – Page 10

Students shall be permitted to make up assignments or tests they miss due to an absence. Teachers shall inform their students of the time allotted for completing make-up work after an absence; however, the students shall be responsible for completing the assignment within the allotted time. A student may not expect make-up work and tests to be identical to work/tests done by the class during his/her absence.

**Make-Up Work: 2023-2024 Secondary Grading Procedures – Page 13-14**

1. All students will have the opportunity to make up work if he/she is absent. The student will be given the same number of days to make up the work and turn in their work as the same number of days he/she was absent.
2. Students who are absent on an announced test day will be expected to take a test upon return. If any student has been absent the day prior to an announced test and if nothing new has been covered, the student will be expected to take the test at the regularly scheduled time. If the student has been absent two or more days, the student will immediately make arrangements with the teacher for the makeup test.
3. Any student who does not appear for a prearranged make up test or does not meet his prearranged due date for other work may receive a zero (0) on that test, work, or retesting.
4. Any student missing work due to participation in extracurricular activities must make prior arrangements with the teacher for work that will be missed prior to the absence.

**Late Work Policy 2023-2024 Secondary Grading Procedures – Page 15**

Late work is defined as any work completed and turned in after a designated due date. Students are expected to turn in all assignments by the due date. Assignments not turned in on time will be made up and deadline will be at the discretion of the teacher. The highest grade a student will receive is a 70 for late work turned in.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/CHEATING: 2023-2024 Secondary Grading Procedures – Page 23-24**

A student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to grade penalties on assignments or tests and disciplinary penalties in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The penalty for cheating will be a zero for work involved and the student will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in cheating offenses. All students involved will be subject to disciplinary action. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or another supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation or information from students.

1. Cheating is interpreted as a procedure which involves the unauthorized giving or receiving help, offering or seeking aid, or the use of material prepared in advance for use on an assignment/assessment. Cheating also involves the use of electronic devices, books, or notes in any form being used during an examination without the permission of the teacher. Retesting will not be allowed in this situation.
2. Cheating is interpreted as a procedure which involves the unauthorized giving or receiving help, offering or seeking aid, or the use of material prepared in advance for use on an assignment/assessment. Cheating also involves the use of electronic devices, books, or notes in any form being used during an examination without the permission of the teacher. Retesting will not be allowed in this situation.
3. Plagiarism consists of representing another person's ideas or writings as one's own, including but not limited to cutting and pasting from Internet sources. Plagiarism will be considered cheating, and is subject to **EIA [Local]**.
4. If a student cheats on any part of a test and/or assignment given in parts that is administered on separate days, he will receive a zero(s) only in the part where the cheating occurred.
5. All students involved in academic dishonesty may be subject to disciplinary action stipulated in the EIA [Local] and BISD Student Code of Conduct. A teacher that determines the student has violated the academic dishonesty policy is required to file a discipline referral and must notify the child's parents or legal guardians of the academic dishonesty.

**NOTE:** Involvement in academic dishonesty may affect a student's eligibility for student honors, student leadership positions, and membership in some student organizations. A discipline consequence may be assigned to a student found guilty of cheating.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Personal Electronic devices may be used in class for educational purposes **only** at certain times throughout the year. When electronic devices are not being used for educational purposes, they must remain in student's backpacks and **turned off** at all times (including morning in the courtyard). Electronic devices that are not in backpack(s) will be picked up and turned in to the office. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Electronic devices turned into the office must be picked up by a parent/guardian.**

Absolutely NO ONE is allowed to take pictures or record anyone at any time.

Students are allowed to turn on their cell phones afterschool.

## COURSE CONTENT CALENDAR

1 <sup>st</sup> Six Weeks	Science Safety Procedures, Scientific Method, describe the Structure of Atoms, identify that Protons determine an element's identity and Valence Electrons determine its chemical properties, interpret the arrangement of the Periodic Table
2 <sup>nd</sup> Six Weeks	Chemical Formulas, Chemical Reactions, Formation of a New substance, Law of Conservation of Mass, Unbalanced forces, calculating Speed, Velocity and Acceleration, and Newton's laws of Motion
3 <sup>rd</sup> Six Weeks	Components of the Universe, The Sun, Electromagnetic Spectrum, Phases of the Moon
4 <sup>th</sup> Six Weeks	Day and night, Seasons, Ocean Tides, Convection currents, weather maps, and weather systems, Relate Plate Tectonics to the formation of crustal features, interpret Topographic Maps and Satellite views to identify land and erosional features and predict how these features may be reshaped by weathering
5 <sup>th</sup> Six Weeks	Biotic and abiotic factors in an ecosystem, and Environmental changes, Human Dependency on Ocean Systems, STAAR Review and Administration
6 <sup>th</sup> Six Weeks	Review for Final assessments and Final Exams.

## REMIND APP

I will be using Remind to send out messages and remind you of when assignments are due or of important dates and/or events that will occur in class. The Remind App does not need to be downloaded to receive messages pertaining to my class. Each class period will have their own remind notification account. Please make sure that you choose the one that pertains to you. If you have any problems or questions, please ask.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Period:**

VISIT: <https://www.remind.com/join/cavazos1p>  
or TEXT to 81010 with the message @cavazos1p

### **3<sup>RD</sup> Period:**

VISIT: <https://www.remind.com/join/cavazos3p>  
or TEXT to 81010 with the message @cavazos3p

### **6th Period:**

VISIT: <https://www.remind.com/join/cavazos6p>  
or TEXT to 81010 with the message @cavazos6p

### **9<sup>TH</sup> Period:**

VISIT: <https://www.remind.com/join/cavazos9p>  
or TEXT to 81010 with the message @cavazos9p



**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Period:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBJECT:** Science

**GRADE:** 8th

**TEACHER'S NAME:** Mrs. N. Cavazos

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood what is expected of my child in their \_\_\_\_\_ Class.

**STUDENT:**

By signing below, I understand that if my Electronic Device is not turned off and not in my backpack, it will be confiscated by my teacher and turned in to an administrator; furthermore, one of my parents will have to pick it up. NO EXCEPTIONS

**PARENT:**

By signing below, I understand that if my child's Electronic Device is not turned off and not in their backpack, it will be confiscated by their teacher and turned into an administrator, furthermore, I will have to pick it up. No Exceptions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please sign and return this page to your teacher.

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Bes time to call \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_