

Welcome to 7th grade Science with Mrs. Dzubak!

UNITS OF STUDY

Lakeview Public Schools follows the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) for science. Detailed benchmarks can be accessed through the Michigan Department of Education website – www.michigan.gov/glce. If you would like a hardcopy of these benchmarks, and do not have internet access, please let me know and I can send a copy to you.

In general, the follow are the topics that will be covered this year: Cells, Heredity, Waves and Energy, Properties and Changes of Matter, Atmosphere and Hydrosphere. Each unit will require students to use appropriate science skills, measurement and data analysis.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Student grades in this science class are based on assessments. Assessments are anything from traditional tests and quizzes to demonstrations, media presentations, or projects. These assessments will be given when students should have mastered a certain portion of the curriculum.

In preparation for assessments, students will do a variety of **exploration assignments**. Exploration assignments are meant as practice, which is why they are not included in the calculation of a marking period grade. Regardless of the type, students are expected to complete **every** assignment *with maximum effort and quality of work*. All assignments and activities have a purpose and importance in understanding the science content.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Parents and students can view their progress reports for all classes using Power School. Paper copies of the progress reports will not be given to students as they will be required to log in and view their progress reports. Computer access is available and will be given to students as needed. I will update my grade book once a week and publish grades on Tuesday for your viewing. Any assignments or late work turned in that week **will not** be entered into the grade book until the following week. If you have questions on a specific assignment, please email me.

Exploration Assignments will have a numeric code on the progress reports:

- 0 = assignment was not turned in
- 1 = incomplete assignment; student was asked to finish or fix errors
- 2 = satisfactorily completed assignment

Assessments will have a traditional letter grade and percentage.

Grading Scale

A 93-100%	B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D+ 67-69%	F <60%
A- 90-92%	B 83-86%	C 73-76%	D 63-66%	
	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%	D- 60-62%	

RETAKE TESTS

Sometimes students need a second chance on a particular assessment. Students will be eligible to retake tests if the following requirements are met:

- All assignments pertaining to the test must be complete. In the grade book that means “2’s” on all assignments. An assignment marked a “1” is not considered complete.
- Students must attend a study session with me and/or complete an additional review assignment. Whether one or both of these will be required will depend on the amount and nature of the material being tested.
- Students will be responsible for scheduling a time for the retake test.

HOMEWORK PROCEDURES

Homework will be collected in class on its due date, unless otherwise specified by the teacher. I will continue with current practice and regularly give feedback on student assignments to help with misconceptions. Incomplete assignments that contain many mistakes will be returned to students for completion or revision.

CONTINUED ON THE BACK!

LATE WORK

It is a student's responsibility to find out what was missed during an absence. There is an assignment file/crate, which contains extra handouts for each day. Missing exploration assignments not completed by the end of the week will be recorded as "zeros" in the grade book. Late work/assignments will be accepted until the summative assessment (test/quiz). Make-up work will be accepted according to the timeframe outlined in the JMS handbook.

MATERIALS

1. **Binder:** Students will be required to maintain a science binder. An explanation of the science binder is attached with this information sheet.
2. **Textbooks:** The books we use in science are not traditional textbooks. Each unit is contained within its own book. Therefore, students will be issued several books (one at a time) as the year progresses.
3. **Pencils:** Students are required to come to class with a pencil. Students will **only** write with pencil in science class.
4. **Lab Safety Contract:** Due to the equipment use and general need for safe behavior in the science classroom, students and parents/guardians will be asked to sign a Lab Safety Contract. Students will NOT be permitted to participate in any labs until the contract has been returned to school.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

We will be using the STARR Positive Behavior System throughout the school. STARR stands for

Safety – Use classroom material appropriately. Keep hands feet, and objects to yourself.
Be familiar with and follow the lab safety contract.

Tolerance- Treat others as you would want to be treated. Accept others and their differences.

Achievement- Do your personal best and have a positive attitude! Complete all assignments on time and practice good study habits for assessments.

Respect- Use kind, polite language and show consideration for others. Use classroom materials and lab equipment with care. Be sure to clean up your workspace before you leave.

Responsibility- Come to class prepared to work with appropriate materials (pencil, binder, textbook, homework). Be on time and take care of bathroom needs between classes.

COMMUNICATION

1. **Email/Phone** - Please feel free to email me, sdzubak@scslakeview-k12.com, or call me at school 445-4130, ex. 2642. Email is the most efficient form of communication if possible. I would love to talk to you to answer any question that you may have.
2. **Website** - You can access weekly lesson plans and other information on the web by visiting the following site: <http://dzubakscience.weebly.com/>
3. **Power School** – This is an internet tool parents can use to view their students' grades in all classes. If you are unfamiliar with this program, please contact the JMS office for details.

I hope that this information will be helpful. If you have questions, concerns or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am here to help you and I am available to assist you throughout the year.

I look forward to a wonderful year working with all of you!

Thank you,

Stephanie Dzubak
7th Grade Science