Course Description:
8th grade science is a two-semester course required for all eighth grade students. This class is designed to meet the newly-adopted Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) that integrate mathematics, engineering, critical thinking, and study skills and is aligned with the Common Core, State, and District standards for science and STEM focus.

Major Instructional Goals:
Students will:
- Collect, analyze and communicate experimental findings, scientific concepts and ideas using experimental design methods and common language arts skills.
- Comprehend and interpret a variety of text/data through self-monitoring and self-assessment strategies.
- Participate in scientific inquiry exercises that will strengthen process skills such as measurement, data representation and communication through scientific discourse.
- Gain a foundational understanding of physics, earth systems science and chemistry topics, including Newton’s laws, atomic theory, changes in matter, energy transformations, weather among others.
- Research and organize information from a variety of sources to be presented in a logical, organized format.
- Write using proper grammar and mechanics recursively throughout the year.
- Increase reading comprehension and word choice in writing by utilizing reading/writing methods common across core-content classes to approach text and organize written communications.

General Rules:
Be on time, be prepared, be respectful and be responsible.

Preparation for Class:
Students are required to bring a pencil, blue or black pen, paper, completed homework and a self-selected reading book to each class unless otherwise directed.

Letter-Based Grading: (Use Parent Portal to access student scores.)
Students will receive scores on their report cards to indicate their mastery of the standards being taught:
A = exceeding, B = meeting, C = progressing towards, D = insufficient progress
F = Failing to meet expectations or insufficient evidence

Most assignments will be scored using the same scale. “M” indicates the assignment is missing.