## Course Outline: SCIENCE 8

Teacher: **Mr. Lawson** Email: **slawson@wvschools.ca**

Classroom: **W205** Website: www.mrlawsonscience.weebly.com

 **Welcome to Science 8!**

The goal of this course is to help you build & connect your understanding of science in the context of your daily life. Please read through the information below as a guideline of what to expect for the upcoming school year. I’m looking forward to sharing the year with you in Science 8!

**Course Objectives & Content**: Science 8 addresses a wide variety of learning outcomes across four main topics, as described in the B.C. Ministry of Education’s new curriculum: (<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/science/8>)

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| **Unit Topic** | **Big Idea** |
| **CHEMISTRY: Particle Model & Atomic Theory****BIOLOGY: Cells & Micro-organisms** **PHYSICS: Optics****EARTH SCIENCE:** **Plate Tectonics** | *The behavior of matter can be explained by the kinetic molecular theory and atomic theory.**Life processes are performed at the cellular level.**Energy can be transferred as both a particle and a wave.**The theory of plate tectonics is the unifying theory that explains Earth’s geological processes.* |

**Required Materials (to be brought to every class):**

* Digital Device & Charger
* Binder with lined & graph paper
* Agenda (paper or electronic)
* Pens, pencils, eraser and ruler
* Calculator

**Expectations**

* Treat yourself and others with kindness, dignity and respect
* Be in your seat and ready for class to start when the bell rings
* Only leave the room if you have Mr. Lawson’s permission
* Keep personal electronic devices off & put away, unless otherwise directed by Mr. Lawson

And most importantly: **You are responsible for your OWN your learning.** At the end of the day, YOU are the one who controls your success in this course. Stay on top of your work, recognize when you need to ask for help, and give it your all.

**Website**

I maintain a class website <http://www.mrlawsonscience.weebly.com>where you can find:

* *A day-by-day summary of class activities (including handouts, assignments & due dates)*
* *Online textbook, contact information, and additional resources*

**Digital Devices**

As a grade 8 student at Rockridge, you are expected to bring a **fully charged** laptop or tablet (**smartphones do NOT count)** to every class for use during your learning. Listen carefully for direction on when to use your device.

**Lates and Absences**

You are expected to be in your seat and ready to begin class by the second bell. If you come in late, please enter quietly without disrupting the class. Lateness negatively affects your “Approaches to Learning” assessment.

All absences must be excused by a parent who calls the office **before school starts** on the day you are absent. It is **YOUR** responsibility to catch up on any missed work – check the website, and if you have questions or can’t find the missed work, ask a friend or e-mail me! If you return to class after an absence without having caught up, your understanding and work habits assessment will be negatively affected.

If you **know in advance** that you’ll miss class, please **let me know as soon as possible** so that we can create a plan for you to stay caught up while you’re away.

**Assessment**

In this course, you will take an active role in assessment and be responsible for your own learning. With the help of your teacher and classmates, you will develop the ability to understand what you have already learned, determine what you have yet to learn, and decide how you can best improve your understanding. We will assess your work using **MYP – Criterion related rubrics** that clearly explain levels of achievement. Assignments will be submitted through Google Classroom or as hard copies. Assignments will not be accepted via e-mail.

**Deadlines**

Assignments are due at the *start of* class on the given due date. Due dates are posted on the board, website, and/or are announced during class well in advance -- it is **YOUR responsibility** to ensure you accurately copy these into your agenda.

Late assignments will be marked as late and will negatively affect your Approaches to Learning assessment. If you require an extension for special circumstances, please ask **well in advance of the due date**.

Rockridge holds a zero tolerance policy for academic misconduct. Copied or plagiarized work will result in a mark of **ZERO** for all individuals involved and will be brought to the attention of school administration.

**Missed Tests**

If you have an excused absence on a test day, you will be expected to write the missed test/quiz when you return to school. **NOTE**: **Make-up tests are only available to students who have both sent an e-mail in advance themselves and have also had their parent/guardian send a follow-up e-mail or note.** If you are absent on the date of a checkpoint, you will miss the opportunity to write that checkpoint.

**Extra Help**

Please come and see me if you have questions or need extra help! I have office hours on **Thursdays at lunch** and **Fridays from 7:45-8:15am** in room **W205**. Need to meet another time? E-mail me for an appointment!

**Evaluation**

You will be evaluated using the MYP Sciences Year 3 Criteria. Each of the four criteria has an equal value:

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| --- | --- |
| MYP CRITERION | WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE? |
| A: Knowledge and Understanding | Checkpoints and Unit Tests |
| B: Inquiring and Designing | Developing Ideas and Designing Labs to test those Ideas |
| C: Processing and Evaluating | Analysis of labs to if trends can be determined |
| D: Reflecting on the Impacts of Science | Research projects, scientific essays, and video presentations on topical issues |

**STUDENTS & PARENTS:
*Please complete the online form found on the “Science 8” page of the class website******to demonstrate that you have read & understand the expectations of the course.***