

**Eighth Grade Science Course Expectations**  
Mrs. Fitzgerald: adfitzgerald@woodlawnschool.org

**Course Objectives**

- To provide an introductory survey of physics, astronomy, plate tectonics, and ecology that culminates in an extensive environmental decision making simulation.
- To develop an understanding of the need for stewardship and to establish the sound practice of stewardship in the community and on the Woodlawn campus
- To develop research, note-taking, and scientific writing skills
- To continue building on the foundation of experimental design and analysis skills established in younger grades
- To establish strong laboratory skills

**Materials**

Three-ring binder with dividers and paper  
Composition book  
*Change over Time*, FAST 3 (kept in classroom)  
*Hope of Snakes*

**Student Handbook**

Students are responsible for knowing and following the policies described in the Woodlawn Student Handbook (found in the Parents section of the Woodlawn Website).

**The Grade Record Sheet**

Students are responsible for recording scores from graded assignments on a record sheet in their notebook. I will provide the sheet and instructions for calculating individual student percentages from points earned and points possible. This sheet should remain in the notebook at all times. Students should share their scores and overall grade with their parents on a regular basis.

**Assessment**

- Projects - projects will be assessed with a specific rubric and point values will vary according to length and involvement.
- Quizzes/Tests - Quizzes may be announced 2 to 3 days in advance. Tests will be announced one week in advance. Quizzes may range in point value from 10 to 25 points. Tests will be approximately 70 points. Students who miss a test due to an unexcused absence will take the test on the day of their return. Students who miss a test due to an excused absence will take the test up to 2 days after they return.
- Lab Work - students will write lab reports and partial lab reports for designated lab exercises. Reports will be assessed with a rubric. Lab Report guidelines will be distributed in class.
- Notebook - organization is important to successful studying and data collection. Students will keep their notebook organized according to the Notebook Guidelines. I will perform Notebook Checks twice per trimester, and notebooks will be assessed using a rubric that is scored out of 20 points.

**Late Work**

Late homework is not accepted and the student will receive a zero. Late reports and projects will be docked 10% one day after the due date and 50% two days after the due date. Projects and reports not received one week after the due date will receive a zero. Students who fail to schedule or take a missed quiz or test within the designated time after return will lose 10% per day.

**When Students Miss Class**

Excused Absences (illness, doctor's appointments, etc.)

Students are responsible for asking teachers for missed assignments as soon as they return. Please check the Absence Notebook for class notes and handouts. The most convenient time to see Mrs. Fitzgerald about missed work is before school or after school - not during class. Late work should be completed within the two days after returning to school unless other arrangements are made with the teacher. Students who miss a test due to an excused absence will take the test up to 2 days after they return.

Unexcused Absences (family trips, etc.)

Students who know they will be absent ahead of time should give one week's notice to the Head of School and to teachers. Teachers will determine whether work should be done before or after the absence. Students who miss a test due to an unexcused absence will take the test on the day of their return unless other arrangements are made with the teacher. Please check the Absence Notebook for class notes and handouts.

