

# Jefferson Academy Secondary School

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## Junior High Science Syllabus

### Instructors:

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**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Jefferson Academy Science Department is to foster responsibility and critical thinking through inquiry, investigation and discovery using scientific reasoning.

### Course Requirements:

#### Attendance:

Each student is expected to be at every class, on time, with all necessary supplies and immediately begin the work specified. Each student will be expected to participate in class activities including discussions, experiments, independent and small group opportunities. Each student will be responsible to create and store notes, materials, etc. from each class period and retain them until after the Final.

**Tardiness:** On-time attendance is very important. When students are late, instructional time is missed and disruptions occur in the classroom. In fact, if a student is five minutes late three times per week, it amounts to missing more than 4.5 hours of class time in a semester. It is equal to three class blocks. All tardies are excused at the discretion of the administration. Examples of Excused Tardies – temporary illness or injury, appointments, legal obligations, funeral, etc. Examples of Unexcused Tardies – oversleeping, traffic, need more time, power outage, etc. When the number of excused tardies becomes excessive, documentation of the reason provided by parents will be required.

- 1st Tardy-teacher conference/speak with student when appropriate during that class period.
- 2nd Tardy-teacher notifies parent and speaks to the student.
- 3rd Tardy-teacher contacts parent-student receives teacher led detention/consequence.
- 4th Tardy-referral to office.
- 5th Tardy-parent, student and admin meeting at school

## **Absences & Makeup work:**

Students at Jefferson Academy are allowed two school days for every day missed from school. **However, let us emphasize that the responsibility for obtaining assignments and completing the work lies with the student, not with the teacher. Students should visit Classroom.google.com and open the Agenda for the days they miss to see what to make up.** Major projects (eg. Final Projects, Unit Projects, Research Papers, etc) are due ON or BEFORE the date due, whether the student is present or not. Work assigned before absence is due upon return.

## **Academic Honesty:**

As with any other class, academic honesty is expected. Turning in any work that is not your own without citation is considered plagiarism. Your own words and ideas are the constant expectation. Rarely quotes will be appropriate. Citing your classmate's work/answers/data after copying it does not count. This includes work from print sources such as books, electronic sources such as the internet, and human sources such as other students. Any student involved in such incidents will face consequences. Students will receive no credit for work determined to be plagiarized and will face appropriate consequences determined by the administration.

## **Course Policies:**

### **Science Grading Policy:**

Grades will be based on three weighted categories:

7th grade:

Work: 50%

Assessments & Projects: 40%

Final Exam: 10%

8th grade:

Work: 45%

Assessments & Projects: 45%

Final Exam: 10%

### **Grading Scale:**

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: 60-69%

F: Below 60%

### **WHAT DO LETTER GRADES MEAN in SCIENCE?**

A~ Represents outstanding distinction and excellence.

- These are not impossible to achieve but are rare and difficult to come by.
- 90-100% average on all work and assessments.
- All work completed with care and accuracy.
- Active participation and attendance.
- Actively seek help and guidance when needed.

B~ Signifies levels of solid accomplishment and effort.

- 80- 89% average on all work and assessments
- Most work completed with care and accuracy.
- Active participation and attendance.
- Actively seek help and guidance when needed.

C~ Signifies adequate levels of accomplishment and effort.

- 70- 79% average on all work and assessments
- Most work completed.
- Reasonable participation.

D~ Represents results less than standard and/or mediocre – just passable

- 60- 69% average on all work and assessments
- Some work completed.
- Reasonable participation.
- Should actively seek teacher's help

F~ Lack of investment in one's own learning.

- <59% average on all work and assessments
- Little to no work completed
- May represent lack of effort and participation
- Needs to seek guidance and teacher assistance

### **Late work:**

Work/projects are generally due at the beginning of the class period on the date due. If not turned in at that time it will be considered late (this includes assignments not being printed before class etc). **Assignments will be accepted for full credit on or before the date that they are due. If an assignment turned in to a teacher is late, a point deduction of 50% of its earned credit value will be taken. No work later than the end of each unit will be accepted in Science. Teachers are under no obligation to grade late work immediately as preferential grading will be first given to students' work that has been turned in ON TIME.**

### **Consequences:**

Students disrupting the learning of others in any way will be disciplined in the following manner.

1<sup>st</sup> minor infraction of the day: Verbal warning

2<sup>nd</sup> minor infraction of the day: Student will be warned and given a consequence

3<sup>rd</sup> minor infraction of the day: Student will be given a consequence and parents and administration will be informed.

4<sup>th</sup> minor infraction of the day: escort to Mr Williams for further action.

Major infractions move directly to an escort to Mr Williams for further action.

Students disrespecting, disobeying or mistreating a substitute teacher will be automatically assigned Friday School.

### **Food/Drink Policy:**

On an every-day basis, no food or non-water drinks are allowed in Science class. Occasionally, a lab involving food will be assigned, so the materials used may be eaten. No food is allowed for your own safety. Food being eaten will be confiscated and disposed of.

### **Office Hours:**

We will be available 7:40- 8:15 am most mornings and after school 3:25-3:45 pm. (except when meetings or duty are scheduled) Appointments can also be made during lunch. We will sometimes be present outside of these hours. If you come to room 251 and do not see one of us in the room, please wait outside or check with Mr. Ives in his office inside the Resource Room.

### **Electronics Policy:**

Student Cell Phones will be deposited in the Phone Holder (aka, the Spa) upon entry to Science class. Phones will stay in the Holder until after the exit bell rings. Occasionally, students will be allowed *with specific permission* to use their phone as a tool (timer, level, etc-NOT as a calculator) Students are not allowed to use any electronic devices for *entertainment* purposes in the classroom. If a student chooses to misuse any electronic device in class, the following disciplinary measures will be implemented:

**First offense:** The teacher will confiscate the device and take it to the office. A student can retrieve the device between 3:15 and 3:30 that day.

**Second offense:** The teacher will confiscate the device and take it to the office. Only a parent can retrieve the device between 3:15 and 3:30 that day or any day after. The office will not call the parent. It is the responsibility of the student to let the parent know.

**Third offense:** The teacher will confiscate the device and take it to the office. A parent conference with administration will be required before the device will be returned.

If the student continues to defy the teacher(s) and this policy, s/he will be suspended.

### **Honors Policy:**

Students earn Honors designation based on a number of criteria: performance in subject area of 85% or above, exemplary performance on standardized tests, strong work ethic, self-motivation, strong writing ability, the student's high level of interest and strong desire to be challenged in the subject area. Science Honors students are required to participate in Science Fair in 8th grade, and complete a capstone project in 7th grade as part of their grade, and are held to higher academic standards in class.

### **Safety Policy:**

Any student acting in an unsafe or dangerous way in the classroom may be asked not to participate in labs/activities involving potentially dangerous equipment. If a student performs unsafely or dangerously during an activity, the student may be required to do alternative work during other instances. Accidents happen, but unsafe procedures, horseplay and malicious destructiveness to people and/or facilities and equipment will not happen in the JA classroom.

All students must have a Science Safety Contract on file in the classroom and to have passed the Safety Quiz with a grade of **at least 90%**. Students will not be allowed to do Labs until they have passed the quiz.

## **Jefferson Academy Science Computer, Chromebook and Internet Use Agreement**

**Students are required to supply their own electronic devices (with keyboard and internet access) for use in class. In an emergency, we have a limited number of chromebooks and/or desktop computers for student use.**

**These rules apply to ALL devices used at school.**

### **Rules of Use**

- Use of computer and network resources is a privilege, not a right. Treat this privilege with care.

- Students can expect their computers and chromebooks to be inspected and monitored for appropriate usage.
- The student shall abide by Jefferson Academy's Acceptable Use Policies as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- The student shall have a **Student Contract for Chromebook Use** signed and on file in the Science classroom.

### **Classroom Device Procedures**

1. Get your Device only when the teacher says to.
2. If you are asked to move for any reason, carry devices in closed position and with two hands.
3. No banging, slamming, or hitting the device. No popping off keys.
4. Stay focused on the activity. **Do not visit pages that are not directly related to your assignment.**
5. Do not touch someone else's device.
6. No gum, food, or drinks allowed near devices.
7. Report Chromebook damage immediately. Students who damage chromebooks will receive disciplinary action immediately.
8. Failure to report damage or improper function to your Chromebook may result in student being held liable.

## **JH Science Daily Procedures and Information**

Every day when you come to Science class, you will have a few jobs to do. Here is the order of the day on most days.

1. Come in with all the supplies you will need for class: your Science Binder, Interactive Notebook, required writing utensils, completed work, and anything else you need for class. We will not be running back and forth to lockers during class.
2. As soon as you come in, put your phone in the Holder, go to your seat and sit down.
3. Immediately read the Agenda that is posted on the screen in the front of the room. Please follow those directions immediately. Do not wait for the bell.
4. Work is to be turned in standing vertically in your personal folder in the file box at the back of the room. Check the Agenda to see exactly what is due. Work is due at the very beginning of each class (preferably before the bell) unless otherwise specified.
5. As soon as the bell rings, complete the Bell Ringer assignment for that day.
6. While you are doing your Bell Ringer, your teacher will be checking over your work and handing it back to you when appropriate.
7. After Bell Ringers and general housekeeping procedures are done, we will correct work, take some notes and/or do activities focusing on the topic of the day. .

### **Classroom Information:**

1. Your teacher will be posting daily Agendas, assignments, and announcements on our class Google Classroom. Check it daily. It is good to have Alerts set for announcements.
2. Restroom/Hall passes: First, ask permission. If it is an appropriate time, you must sign out on the clipboard, then take the Science Hall Pass with you.
3. We will have Chapter Quizzes. You will be informed of these at least 4 days prior.
4. Your Interactive Notebook will also be collected and graded periodically. Sometimes you will be given warning. Other times will be "Pop" checks. Keep it up-to-date and neat!
5. Textbooks are online, and will be used almost daily. If you do not have online access at home, you may use your online book in the library at school, the public library, or a friend or neighbor's house. There are also free Apps available for smartphones and tablets, so that internet access is not required. We do have a few print editions available for check out for the semester on a first come, first serve basis.

**2 Year Plan:**

This schedule is a generalized plan, and is subject to change based on various factors. Quizzes will be given at the end of each Chapter, and a Unit Exam at the end of each Unit. Focus is placed on Scientific Thinking and Writing, Hands-on and Project based learning.

Scientific Method and Measurement	Life Science
Earth Science	Chemistry
Physics	Astronomy

**JH Science Supply list**

**Please bring these supplies to your Science class. Some you will need daily, some you can keep in the classroom.**

**We request that if you run out of any of the following as the semester goes on, please re-supply.**

- Black and/or blue ballpoint pens
- Grading pens (green, purple, red, etc~ ballpoint or paper-mate flair pens~ no sharpies!)
- Pencils
- Highlighters
- Loose leaf notebook paper
- Metric or Metric/Standard ruler
- Calculator (a cheap one!)~ you will not always be able to use your phone for a calculator
- A pad or pack of graph paper

Every great advance in Science has issued from an audacity of imagination.~ John Dewey