

## **Honors Science Expectations**

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back from summer break! I want to take this opportunity to cover my class expectations for this school year. I am looking forward to working with your student and hope this will be a successful year for them. Email is the best and fastest way to communicate with me as I check my email several times a day. My email address is [deborah.brown@adams12.org](mailto:deborah.brown@adams12.org).

**Honors Science**: Selection of students for honors science was based on Math CSAP scores of 3.5 or higher. Math was used as a basis for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science program because the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum is strongly math based. An honors mentoring program will be established for those students struggling with the higher expectations of an honors curriculum.

The eighth grade physical science program is a laboratory-based program whose content includes the characteristic properties of matter, atomic structure and theory, energy, work, force power and motion, science, technology and society, and career awareness. Laboratory experiences make up at least 50% of the instructional time and are the framework within which students can expect to study the key concepts. For middle school science honors classes, inquiry and discovery are central to instruction within the context of experimental design. Honors students at this level will be able to design and implement investigations independently and/or collaboratively and student investigations will result in some product whose scope is to be determined by the teacher. It differs from regular physical science in that key concepts are explored in greater depth in the laboratory setting.

Specifically honors science will entail the following:

1. Increased pacing
2. Independent reading
3. Higher level math calculations based on lab experiments
4. Higher level inquiry based lab experiences
5. Increased lab report expectations
6. Science Fair project
7. Encouraged participation in science competitions

I hope this has helped to clarify the honors science curriculum. Should you have any further questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

### **Curriculum**

The science curriculum for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade focuses on learning science skills through the study of the physical sciences. Your student will be learning various topics related to chemistry and physics. Books are available in the library for

check out if students need to take a book home for further study or test preparation. Students may also access the textbook and lab book from the CMS website.

1. <http://www.century.adams12.org/>
2. On my teacher web page there is a button for both the textbook and the lab book.

I do not assign homework on a regular basis; however, many times your student will need to complete an assignment at home that they need additional time on. In addition, I recommend that each student spend 5 – 10 minutes each evening going over the material we covered in class that day. This will give them time to determine if they understood the material or have any questions as well as provide time to summarize any notes taken in class.

### **Help Sessions**

Students may schedule help sessions with me either before or after school.

### **Daily Expectations**

Students are expected to arrive on time to class prepared to learn. I expect students to have their notebook (with both loose leaf and graph paper), calculator, and writing utensil in class each day. They should be prepared with both a pencil and a pen.

Hands on experiences are the best way to learn science, as well as the most engaging for the students. For this reason I have very clear behavior expectations for students in my classes. This is for your child's safety and the safety of the other students. Later this week your child will be bringing home a safety contract. Please look over this contract carefully before signing. Any students who can not conduct themselves in an appropriate manner will not be participating in lab experiments and will receive alternative learning opportunities.

**Science Notebooks**: Students are expected to maintain a notebook exclusively for science. I require a one inch binder with dividers that the school has provided for them. Each notebook will contain the following sections: Classwork, Labs, Tests and Quizzes, Warm Ups, and Resources. There will be a table of contents located in each section. In addition students should have a supply of loose leaf paper and graph paper in their notebooks at all times. Students may store their notebooks on the bookcase as they enter the classroom.

**Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**: All students are expected to complete and submit their own work. When students are using information from another source they should give full credit to the source the information (including

pictures) is taken from. Plagiarism and cheating are problems of monumental proportions that prevent students from developing critical skills. The longer shortcuts are taken, the farther behind the student will get in acquiring the skills needed to be successful.

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty, Copying, and Plagiarism:

1<sup>st</sup> offense: 50% grade reduction, written acknowledgement of infraction with written plan for better strategy.

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: 100% grade reduction, written acknowledgement of infraction, student informs parent/guardian of issue.

3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Student conference with administrator and disciplinary action is taken.

### **Grading Scale**

Grades will be weighted in the following way:

Lab experiments	40%,
Classwork and Homework	20%,
Assessments (quizzes, tests, projects)	40%.

**Late Work:** Students may turn work in late; however, they will be penalized 5% per day late up to 5 days. After the 5<sup>th</sup> day late the work will receive a maximum of 50% credit. District late policy will apply for all absences. If a student is present when an assignment is given, and due when they are absent, the assignment is due upon their return. No late projects will be accepted.

### **Contact**

The best way to reach me is by email. I check my email several times a day. My district email is: [deborah.brown@adams12.org](mailto:deborah.brown@adams12.org)  
You may also leave a voice message at: 720-972-3287.

I look forward to working with your student to make this a successful year for them. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Deborah Brown