

Grade 8 Science – Focus on Physical Science (2008–09)

GVJH – Where Students Become Scientists!
GVJH – ¡Dondé Estudiantes se hacen Científicos/as!

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For students to be successful they must:

- Be here
- Be here on time
- Be friendly
- Be polite
- Be prepared
- Be a listener
- Be a doer
- Be a worker
- Be a risk taker
- Be a success

The curriculum for Eighth Grade Science is based on the California State Standards. There is a focus on inquiry-based lessons that tend to foster life-long learning skills. The following topics will be covered this year:

- Investigation and Experimentation
- Density and Buoyancy
- Structure and Properties of Matter
- Periodic Table of Elements
- Chemical Reactions
- Chemistry of Living Systems
- Motion
- Forces, forces in fluids
- Earth in the Solar System, Astronomy

Grading Scale (%)

A+	97+		Grade Weighting:
A	93-96	40%	Classwork (labs, activities)
A-	90-92	15%	Homework
B+	87-89	30%	Tests and Quizzes
B	83-86	10%	Independent Study
B-	80-82	5%	Semester Final
C+	75-79		
C	70-74		
C-	65-69		
D	50-64		

Below 50% is considered not passing and the student does not receive credit for the course.

Citizenship Grades are based on behavior, participation, and preparedness. Three tardies in a quarter will result in an unsatisfactory citizenship grade.

Extra Credit - points may not exceed 3% of the total for the semester. Students must present their idea in writing to the teacher for approval before completing any project. Extra credit is not allowed or accepted the last two weeks of either semester.

Independent Study is an opportunity for students to investigate a topic of personal scientific interest. Students are required to conduct an original experiment for display at the local GVJH Science Fair and possible entry in the county science fair. A more detailed explanation will be distributed at a later date.

Homework is assigned on an as-needed basis to complete projects started in class and as review or preview for topics that require additional practice or study (generally 2-3 times per week).

Make-up work is accepted without penalty for excused absences. Work must be made up within the number of days equal to the absence plus one day. It is the student's responsibility to get missed assignments. **Late work** will receive 25% reduced credit per school day (this allows assignments to be turned in up to 3 days late for partial credit).

Materials needed for class on a daily basis:

- Binder with a section for science class
- Paper, Pencils, Pens
- School Agenda
- Science Workbook (only as requested)

On-line Grades can be found at:

<http://www.gvjh.org/~bpenkala/grades/index.html>

Keep this for reference! You will be held accountable for its contents, as will your teacher. Please fill out the portion below, place it in the science section of your binder and bring to class for recording purposes.

Parent acknowledgment:

I have read and understand these class guidelines:

Student name: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____