

SCIENCE 8 COURSE OUTLINE

Teacher: Mr. Herman Cortes
Email: herman.cortes@sd6.bc.ca
Room 240



Units and Weightings

1. Applications of Science	5%
2. Biology (Cells & Microorganisms)	20%
3. Physics (Light & Radiation)	20%
4. Chemistry (Atoms & Molecules)	20%
5. Earth Science (Plate Tectonics)	15%
- Final Exam	20%

Marks Distribution

Marks will be allotted according to the unit weightings listed above. Marks for each unit will typically come from assignment and quizzes (45%) and a unit test (55%).

Problem-Solving is an important life skill that will be further developed in Science 8. Clear criteria for organizing solutions to problems will be provided and it is expected that you will reference these criteria when submitting work for evaluation (labs, assignments, quizzes and tests and projects).

Assignments

Graded assignments and quizzes will make up 40% of your course grade. These include handouts, homework, lab reports and projects and there will be plenty of class time provided to complete these. Use your time wisely and make sure you hand in your assignments on time!

Handouts and homework are opportunities to practice applications of newly-learned concepts. **Lab reports** will sometimes require a formal write-up and at other times, labs will be an informal activity. In either case, labs are an exciting and essential component of your learning in this course. For **assigned projects**, it is important to keep up with them! If there are unusual circumstances that prevent you from handing in an assignment on time, you must communicate with me in writing **BEFORE** the due date in order to be granted an extension. You may do so by email or a handwritten note, and you must include **why** you need an extension as well as **which date** you will hand in your assignment by.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be used mainly as a formative assessment. They will carry little or no weight in the overall grade but are an invaluable opportunity for learning. They will guide your learning by revealing what you understand now and what you will need to study in more detail. They will help guide my instruction as well. The most important assessments in this course will be the formative ones.

Unit Finals

Unit final tests will be based upon the BC Ministry of Education curricular outcomes. A major exam will be given each unit and if you do a good job of assignments, quizzes and labs beforehand, you can expect to do well on tests. During the semester limited opportunities for re-tests will be provided to students. All test corrections and review must be completed in order to write a re-test.

Late Assignments

The above assessments are required elements and must be completed to get credit for the course but will be completed for an “exempt” if late. Once I have marked and returned to the class, an assessment is deemed late (Note: all late assignments must be completed to a mastery level). Students with missing marks after the cut-off dates will be assigned the letter grade “I”, regardless of percent. The “I” will become an “F” on the next report card. Again, use your time wisely and hand in your coursework on time.

Course Materials

You will need to bring the following to every class:

- Your textbook
- A binder or notebook for class notes
- A pencil and eraser

Work Habits

Assessments of student work habits are reported on using the following Ministry descriptors and criteria:

	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (N)	SATISFACTORY (S)	GOOD (G)	EXCELLENT (E)
RESPONSIBILITY	Most assignments missing, frequently not ready to work and learn.	Most assignments turned in, usually ready to work and learn.	All assignments turned in, ready to work and learn.	Demonstrates an industrious work ethic, ready to work and learn.
COOPERATION	Does not work well with other students or teacher(s).	Usually works well with other students and teacher(s).	Works well with other students and teachers, participates in class in a meaningful way.	A class leader exemplified by a high degree of positive and meaningful participation initiated by the student.
INDEPENDENCE	Needs on-on-one attention most of the time.	Often requires direction.	A self-directed learner, takes appropriate initiative and responsibility for learning.	A keen and enthusiastic learner actively seeking out personal growth and learning opportunities.

Attendance and Absences

Regular and punctual attendance are prerequisites to a commitment to excellence and the successful intellectual development of the learner. The responsibility for attendance lies with the student and parent/guardian. Absence due to illness or other extenuating circumstances must be confirmed by the parent/guardian by telephone, email or in writing, prior to the absence or on the student's return to school. A verbal excuse for an absence by the student is not sufficient. It is also **the student's responsibility** to contact the teacher to make up missed work. "I wasn't there" is not an excuse for an incomplete lab report or project.

Cell Phones and Toys

Both cell phones and toys such as fidget spinners or kendamas are a cause of severe distraction from your learning, and are therefore not permitted in class. Use of your device or toy during class time will result in immediate confiscation. Students may leave their devices in their locker, their backpack or the hanging "Cell Phone Penalty Box" in the classroom.

Extra Help

I make every effort to be available for my students. Times at which extra help is available will be posted by my classroom door. Please do not hesitate to seek help when you need it!

DTSS Science Department Philosophy

The Science Department is committed to creating a learning environment that is safe and conducive to learning. We are also committed to ensuring that students have opportunities to demonstrate their best performance. This will look different depending on the course and teacher, but may include retests, opportunities to correct submitted work, and/or resubmission of course work.

We further believe that it is crucial for student success to receive timely and relevant feedback. We will make every effort to mark and return students' work to them quickly so that remarks on their assignments/tests have meaning to them. We ask that students respect this process and their peers by doing everything in their power to hand in assignments on their due dates.

In addition, students are asked to communicate with their teachers **in advance** if they will be unable to meet a specific deadline. These policies are designed to help develop students' responsibility and time management skills, and to foster a positive learning experience in all science classes.