

Theresa Ellis

IMPORTANT

2018 - 2019

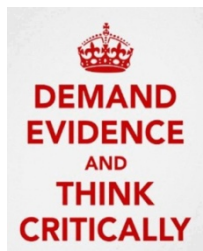
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(*Please notice the 1 in my email address! If you don't include it, your all-important email messages will go to another teacher in our district*)



8th Grade Science



How do we know what we think we know about the universe? What is the name of that star that I always see above my house in the winter? Why do I see different stars in the summer? Why do Mentos and soda fizz when you mix them? Why do my brother's feet smell so bad? If you have ever asked yourself questions like these, you are thinking like a scientist. In fact, just by being human and being alive, you **are** a scientist! In this class you will learn about scientific discoveries and answer your own scientific questions. Together we will work to discover the importance of science in our lives and the universe. In the process you will learn many skills and build habits that will prepare you for high school and beyond.

Daily Requirements (What do I need to bring to class?)

You should "Arrive with the Five" every day. In science, this means having:

- Pencils or pens
- Planner
- Pencil Pouch (with highlighters)
- Independent reading book

You will also need a single subject spiral notebook which you will leave in class

We're here to learn and enjoy the process. **Be ready to work in a safe, respectful, and responsible manner so we can take care of ourselves, take care of others and take care of our environment**

Assessment (How will my grade be determined?)

Understanding science and conducting scientific experiments well depends upon **active participation** in class and completing assignments and activities on time. As you check your progress online, all work will fit into the following categories:

- **Formative Assessments** – designed to help students practice understanding, to prepare for summative assessments, and to help Mrs. Ellis make adjustments in instruction. These consist of reading questions, short practice assignments, some labs, self-reflections, notes, and participation in daily class activities.
- **Summative Assessments** – designed to provide information about a student's achievement at the end of instruction. This includes some labs, quizzes, tests, and projects. These are the "big stakes" items.

Assignments should be submitted on time. Since assignments build on previous learning, missing and late work can impact your acquisition of science concepts. If you anticipate a problem meeting a deadline, please discuss any requests for deadline extensions with Mrs. Ellis as soon as possible **BEFORE** the initial deadline. **Turn your work in on time and you'll have nothing to worry about.**

In order to achieve your personal best, **revision** and **retakes** might be necessary. Anytime you have feedback recommending revision, you should take advantage of this opportunity. What that revision opportunity might look like will vary with the type of work you're revising. The specifics will be explained in class as we encounter different types of assignments, quizzes, and tests. **Stay tuned.**

Grades are available online and can be viewed each time Mrs. Ellis makes a change. The learning targets for all work (formative and summative) will be assessed using the rubric below. **Do not think of the scores in the grade book as “points”,** but think about the descriptions that correspond with each number. These words describe the quality of your work and the depth of your understanding. **To successfully learn and understand concepts, strive to produce “accomplished” (5) work for every learning target and revise when necessary.**

Common Assessment Rubric (What do my scores mean?)

Exceptional (6)

Wow! Work is complete, thorough and unique. You express complex connections beyond what was required or expected. Your thinking, communication and presentation demonstrate advanced craftsmanship.

Accomplished (5)

You got it! Work is complete and demonstrates a high level of understanding and craftsmanship. You show evidence of comprehending the material, applying it, and communicating clearly what you learned.

Sufficient (4)

Good work! Work satisfactorily demonstrates an understanding of key concepts. Your work shows minor errors, or a need for improvement in craftsmanship and/or better communication of what you learned.

Developing (3)

Keep going! You demonstrate effort toward learning and are getting closer to the target(s). Work needs revision or additions to demonstrate thorough understanding or craftsmanship.

Inadequate (2)

Try again! Work demonstrates a lack of understanding, is incomplete or incorrect. Major revisions or additions are required to show competency.

Minimal (1)

Very little work completed or accurate.

“The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark.” – Michelangelo

Help!!!! (What if I need it and how do I get it?)

Communicate with Mrs. Ellis when you need help. Before and after school are typically good times to come in for help. Because Mrs. Ellis’s meeting schedule varies from week to week, you’ll need to check what specific times are available that week. Pick up a pass from Mrs. Ellis as your ticket into the room. E-mail is often a good way to get quick questions answered. **(REMEMBER the “1” in my email address – see front page)**

“Continuous effort – not strength or intelligence – is the key to unlocking our potential.” – Winston Churchill

Course Content (What are we going to learn about this year?)

Force and Motion

Why and how do objects move?

Energy and Waves

What is energy, how does it change form, and how does energy move?

Electricity and Magnetism

How can forces work from a distance and what impacts their strength?

Earth and Space

Why do the Earth, Sun, and Moon appear as they do?

Natural Selection

How and why have living things changed over time?

Keys to Success

1. **Come to class excited to learn and ready to participate.** Strive to make each day a personal best.
2. **Set aside a regular time to work** on assignments or projects and study for quizzes/tests.
3. **Schedule a time to meet with Mrs. Ellis** to make up work or get some extra help if you need it.
4. **Please ask questions.** About homework, labs, the universe. **Ask, ask, ask.**

