

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.

Curriculum

The science curriculum for the 8th 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 selection button for the textbook (student ebook) and for 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 and the school had provided this for your student. The notebook should contain the following sections:

Classwork/homework, Labs, Tests and Quizzes, Warm Ups, and Science Resources. Students may store their notebooks on the bookcase as they enter the classroom.

Late Work: Students may turn in assignments late; however, they will lose five percent off the grade per day late. No assignments will be accepted late during the last week of the trimester. If a student has been absent the district policy of one day for each day absent plus one day will apply and students will not be penalized with a point loss unless they exceed the make-up time. All work assigned prior to the absence will be due upon the students return or the due date if the due date is later. Major projects will NOT be accepted late.

Grading Scale

Grades will be weighted in the following way:

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

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:

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

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

3rd offense: Student conference with administrator and disciplinary action is taken.

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

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

