

# *8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Syllabus*



*Course: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science*

*Grading Period: 1st Nine Weeks (11/9-1/22-21)*

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## *School Statement:*

*The goal of each educator at Shirley Simmons Middle School is to improve the lives of children and continuously strive to seek out new ways to improve instructions and equip children with the tools, resources, and knowledge needed to exceed their individual goals. It is also our goal to create a warm and positive climate in each classroom by identifying and considering students' needs and interests. Everyone needs to succeed. In order to take the kinds of risks necessary to learn and grow, our students must perceive that success is within their reach. It is our greatest challenge to start with them wherever they are—and that is likely to be different from one child to another.*

## *Course Description/ Overview:*

*Mississippi educators have joined a national movement to adopt common standards and assessments for English Language Arts and Mathematics. Currently, standards for what students should know and be able to do vary among states, as does the difficulty of the assessments used to determine whether students are meeting those standards. Common standards allow for collaboration among states on best practices and professional development.*

*Common Core will provide an opportunity to prepare Mississippi students for college and workforce expectations. It will ensure that all students, no matter where they live, have internationally benchmarked standards and assessments that are clear and understandable and consistent.*

*The Standards set requirements not only for English Language Arts (ELA) but also for literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and technical subjects. Students must learn*

*to read, write, speak, listen and use language effectively in a variety of content areas. Reading skills are the foundation for any creative and purposeful expression in language. Text complexity and critical reading of informational text are the heart of ELA standards*

*Common Core (Enter Grade/Subject) State Standards:  
Inquiry: Lab and experiments*

*8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Standards*

*Natural Selection*

*L.4A.1. Use various scientific resources to analyze the historical finding of Charles Darwin to explain basic principles of natural.*

*L.8.4A.2 Investigate to construct explanations about natural selection that connect growth, survival, food intake, and interactions with other organisms.*

*L.8.4B.1 Analyze and interpret data to explain how natural selection may lead to increase and decrease of specific traits in populations over time.*

*L.8.4B.2 Construct written and verbal explanations to describe how genetics variations of traits in populations increase some organism's probability of surviving and reproducing in a specific environment.*

*The district has supplied us with a class set for these books. Through a collaborative effort the entire faculty and staff will hold students accountable for required reading. For extra reading at home, you may purchase your own copy of these books from one of the local bookstores.*

*Materials: Computer and Flash Drive*

*Instructional Method: The textbook and vocabulary will be assigned to correlate with the standards of this course. Handouts will be provided to supplement the text. Topics will be introduced through lectures, discussions, and hands-on activities in order to meet the need of every child. Small and large groups will also be used to assist each student. The final grade for this class will be given on the basis of the degree and quality of the following:*

- *Homework*
- *Independent Class Assignments*
- *Major Projects*
- *Skill Quizzes/ AR Quizzes*
- *Exams*
- *Group Work*

*Missed Work: If a student is absent, the deadline for missed work is equal to the number of days missed plus one day. It is the student's responsibility to find out what assignments he/she has missed upon returning to school. If a child fails to turn in an assignment, he/she will receive morning or lunch detention to complete the assignment.*

*66% Major Tests & Projects*

*34% Class Assignments/ Homework/ Quizzes/ Agenda- Organizational Skills*

#### *Grading System*

*A...90-100*

*B...80-89*

*C...70-79*

*D...65-69*

*F...0-64*

*I... Incomplete*

*NG... No Grade*

*Supplies Needed: Dictionary*

*Vinyl Notebook*

*Notebook Dividers*

*Pencil/ Enclosed Pencil Sharpener*

*Pen (Blue/Black Ink)*

*Highlighter*

*Flash Drive*

*Major Exams:*

*Nature vs Nurture*

*Selective breeding/ genetic engineering/cloning*

*Evolution*

### *Parental Involvement:*

*As parents, you have a significant and long-lasting effect on your child's growth and development as readers and learners. The success of my effort as a teacher involves you, the parent. Here are some ideas and suggestions you may wish to consider for the success of your child.*

- *Choose a family reading topic of the month, such as "Sports Stories" or "Mysteries." Following up by talking about what you have read.*
- *Check out taped books from the library and listen to them with your child.*
- *Check your child's online grades on Active Parent and the teacher's website to monitor your child's progress and upcoming activities/ assignments.*
- *Check for AR Alert on a biweekly basis to make sure that your child is meeting his/her reading goal for the nine weeks. Please sign and return all forms to the teacher.*
- *Pick a current event in a science or math related topic to discuss during family time.*

### *Classroom Norms*

- *Be respectful towards the teacher, substitute teacher, and classmates.*
- *Follow directions when given.*
- *Be in your seat when the bell rings.*
- *Bring all books and materials to class daily.*
- *Sit in your assigned seat daily.*
- *Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.*
- *Raise your hand before speaking.*
- *No talking across the classroom.*
- *No eating, drinking, or gum chewing in the classroom.*
- *Do not groom (comb/brush your hair or put on make-up) in the classroom.*

### *Consequences*

- *Warnings (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>)*
- *Teacher / Student Conference*
- *Silent Detention (Lunch)*
- *Call Parent*
- *Refer to counselor*
- *Refer to the administrator - Based on the teacher's discretion, a child may be immediately referred to administration in lieu of any of the above consequences.*

### *Positive Behavior Rewards*

- *Educational Games*
- *Snacks*
- *Homework Passes*
- *Positive Notes or Phone Calls*
- *Fun Center Time*

### *Daily Classroom Procedures*

- *Enter and exit the classroom in an orderly manner. You will exit by rows daily and pick up all trash off the floor before leaving.*
- *Sharpen your pencil before class starts.*
- *If you are not at the pencil sharpener when the bell sounds, you should be in your seat.*
- *Have your notebook and pencils/pens on the desk before the class begins.*
- *All assignments must be written in pencil or blue/black ink.*
- *Check the Falcon's Nest for the "Bell Ringer" activity each day and start as soon as possible. It is a timed activity (5-8 minutes).*
- *Keep your notebook divided into three (4) categories- vocabulary, notes on reading skills, notes on writing skills, and returned graded assignments. All test documents will remain in a folder kept on file.*
- *Head all papers on the right hand side- Full Name, Date, Period, and Skill. No paper will be graded without a heading.*
- *Class assignments and homework activities must be placed in the appropriate trays- 1<sup>st</sup> period, 2<sup>nd</sup> period, 3<sup>rd</sup> period, etc. If you are absent due to an illness or a school function, you are responsible for obtaining your assignments before or after you return. There will be no exceptions.*
- *Do not leave the classroom without the teacher's permission and a hall pass.*
- *The quiet signal for my class is when I raise my right hand.*
- *When you go to the library, restroom, or cafeteria, walk to the right side of the hallway. Please use your quiet voice. While in the library, the librarian will notify me if there are any problems. The principal or librarian has the right to cancel your library privileges.*

*After carefully reading this course syllabus, please sign and return this form to (Enter Teacher's Name) your child is required to keep the course syllabus in his/her notebook.*

*My child and I have read this syllabus and have accepted all terms.*

*Teacher: Ms. Gibson*

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*Student's Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *(Date)* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent's Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *(Date)* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent's Email Address* \_\_\_\_\_

*Home Phone Number/ Cell Number*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Best Time to Call* \_\_\_\_\_ *morning* \_\_\_\_\_ *afternoon* \_\_\_\_\_ *evening*