



DAPHNE MIDDLE SCHOOL
8th GRADE SCIENCE ADVANCED COURSE SYLLABUS

Ms. Michele L. Benefield mbenefield@bcbe.org Planning: 3rd period

Welcome back to DMS! Science is going to be one of your favorite classes this year. Through hands-on, fun, engaged learning, we will fill explore the worlds of physical science and chemistry.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (as Stated in the Alabama Course of Study and Common Core Standards; NSTA standards, and cross-cutting standards):

Course Objectives:

- Describe the structure of atoms, including the location of protons, neutrons, and electrons.
- Determine the number of protons, neutrons, and electrons, and the mass of an element using the periodic table.
- State the law of conservation of matter.
- Differentiate between ionic and covalent bonds.
- Define solution in terms of solute and solvent.
- Describe states of matter based on kinetic energy of particles in matter.
- Identify the steps within the scientific process.
- Describe how mechanical advantages of simple machines reduce the amount of force needed for work.
- Identify Newton's three laws of motion.
- Differentiate between potential and kinetic energy.
- Explain the law of conservation of energy and its relationship to energy transformation.
- Classify waves as mechanical or electromagnetic.
- Planning and carrying out investigations.
- Explore the uses of magnetism and electricity.
- Analyzing and interpreting data.
- Constructing and using scientific models.
- Gaining literary fluency through the use of informational text.

GRADING FORMAT (as Required by the Baldwin County Middle School Handbook):

Grading is weighted as follows:

- Assessments 55%: Assessment of student's mastery of the course of study requirements.
- Inside of Class Work 30%: These assignments are activities done at school under teacher's supervision.
- Outside of Class Work 15%: Work completed outside of the classroom.

RESOURCES: (The online textbook and AMSTI textbooks may be found on my website under the resource tab.)

- Glencoe Physical Science grade 8 textbook
- AMSTI Lab materials and resources (Carolina Science)
- LTF – A+ College Ready curriculum

COMMUNICATION: (all links to my teacher website and other communication)

iNow: Grades and assignments can be accessed on the iNow website. Parents and students should check iNow weekly to insure that they are aware of class progress. Any student without Internet access can request a printed progress report at any time. This year, parents and students will have a separate log-in code.

DMS Website: Links to everything can be found under my staff listing on our school website. <http://www.bcbe.org/dms>
- Textbook resource page and photo galleries are password protected. (password: dmstrojans)

Teacher Website: <http://dms-science-scene.weebly.com> Everything that you need for class will be on this class website. In addition to this, I wish each student to create and maintain their own website on weebly. This will be a fantastic organization tool and all of their information will be privacy protected and stored in "the cloud." I will offer training on this. The fee is \$1.00 per student. I need this fee turned in ASAP.

Moodle: More detailed information for the class is accessed through <http://learn.bcbe.org>. Log in using your child's login and password (first.lastnameMMDD and lunch code).

Email: I send out an email blast periodically to inform you of important class information such as upcoming assessments or project due dates. In order for you to receive these emails, I need you to fill out the information on the back of this syllabus. Please print.

Remind ©: I will be using Remind this year (formerly Remind 101). This texting service is safe and secure and your cell number will not be shared with anyone. I will use this to send out reminders of deadlines, assignments, and missed work. Please include a cell number on this syllabus for me.

Facebook: Please like our science facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Science-Scene/158576481141575>

CLASS WORK POLICIES:

Due Dates: To be considered on time, assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class. I will date stamp assignments.

Late Work: Any work that is turned in after the due date will be counted as late. I will deduct 10% per day late for class assignments and projects. You may turn in homework assignments one day late for half credit.

Suspensions: Any student assigned to On Campus Suspension or Off Campus Suspension is responsible for all work missed in class. Baldwin County's grading policy will be followed for Off Campus Suspensions.

Fees: We do not request any lab fees but I **WILL** require my advanced students to set-up and maintain a personal website. I have a specific one in mind and the cost per student is \$1.00. I will need this sent in ASAP please.

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT:

Students at Daphne Middle School are expected to follow all rules and procedures outlined by the Baldwin County Board of Education, as well as the rules of Daphne Middle School. Learning cannot take place without control and discipline, and students will not be allowed to interrupt the educations of other students with their poor choices.

Students must understand that each member of the class has a right to an education, and that disruption of class cheats everyone in the room out of precious time to learn. You will receive a warning and then a consequence followed by a referral if the behavior is not resolved. If you put yourself or anyone else in harm's way or compromise our safe environment, this will result in immediate administrator referral or removal from the lab or classroom.

*Be Respectful. Be Responsible.
Be a Friend. Be Innovative. Be Creative
Be Resourceful.*

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:

7 Habits Planners: Students should write down the weeks activities in their agendas first thing each Monday morning.

Turn in Work: All work must be turned into the class designated work baskets.

Timeliness: Students are expected to be on time to class. They are expected to have all materials needed and be ready to work.

Restroom: Students should use their break, lunch, and transition time to use the restroom as needed. If there is an emergency during class, students will be allowed to go to the restroom, but might be expected to make up instructional time during break the next day.

Dismissal: Students may be dismissed from class only when the noise level is at an appropriate level, students have cleaned up their area, and when all students are seated.

Academic Integrity: All work turned in is expected to be your won. Copying, allowing others to copy, and plagiarizing materials from the Internet are examples of activities that will result in a grade of a ZERO!

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS AND ACCOMMODATIONS:

It is your responsibility to know your progress in this class, so check your progress weekly on iNow. If you are not making satisfactory progress (under 70%) in this course please see the teacher (before it is too late to make changes). If a student receives a failing grade for the year then summer school will be recommended. All requests for accommodation (for this course or any school event) are welcome from students and parents.

Please complete and return the bottom portion to Ms. Benefield- (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

I have read and understand the contents of the syllabus for Ms. Benefield's Science class.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

* **Parent/Guardian email:** _____

Parent/Guardian preferred phone number: _____

Are you available by text? YES NO * Cell number: _____

Comments:

Video and Photo Usage

I _____ (AGREE / DO NOT AGREE) to let Daphne Middle School use (VIDEOS, PHOTOS, WORK SAMPLES) of my child to be used for display purposes or for technological presentations. These will be used to educational purposes only. This will only be done with the individual students' agreement. If this form is not signed I will assume that I have permission to use videos, photos, and work samples.

Audio/Visual Viewing Policy

According to the Baldwin County Board of Education Guidelines for Use of Audio/Visual Materials,: "In grades 7-8, the use of any video/DVD with a more restrictive rating than "PG" is prohibited. If "PG" materials are used, the principal and parent must give written consent. By signing below, you are giving consent to the use of such audio/visual materials in class. These will be content appropriate for our class, viewed previously by the teacher, approved by the principal, and parents will be notified before any viewing takes place.

I _____ (parent signature) agree to the above statement.

I am sending in my \$1.00 for _____ in order to subscribe to weebly for a personal organizational website.
(student's name)