

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science  
2020-2021

Mr. TJ Weaver  
Room 215

Tutoring Hours: Monday and Wednesday 2:35PM to 2:25PM  
[tjweaver@pointeschools.org](mailto:tjweaver@pointeschools.org)

**Course Description**

This course is designed to help students gain a better understanding of different scientific concepts they encounter in everyday life. Students will learn about the scientific method, evolution and natural selection, genetics and gene inheritance, atoms and molecules, and how energy is transferred from one unit to another. They will also be able to form, support, and defend a position on a Science sub-topic relevant to the 21st Century.

**Semester Units**

Semester 1 (Fall):

- Scientific Method
- Evolution
- Genetics and Variations
- Populations
- Natural Selection
- Technology's influence on human life

Semester 2 (Spring):

- Energy transfer
- Atoms and Molecules
- Physical and Chemical reactions
- Natural hazards and Geological events
- Biosphere and Rock Layers
- Scale, Proportion, and Quantity

\* Please note this schedule is subject to change.

**Textbook**

Textbooks are designed to be used IN CLASS ONLY. Students will not have homework assignments directly from the book unless photocopies of those pages can be made. In the case of absent or missing work, or any other situation in which a student needs to take a textbook home, the book may be checked out from the 4A Center with the understanding that failure to return it, or returning it damaged will result in the student's parent becoming financially responsible for the entire replacement cost. Each textbook is **\$100.00** to replace.

McGraw-Hill. iScience: Physical. (2017). McGraw-Hill Education: Columbus, OH.

McGraw-Hill. iScience: Life. 1st Edition. (2016). McGraw-Hill Education: Columbus, OH.

McGraw-Hill. iScience: Earth and Space. 1st Edition. (2016). McGraw-Hill Education: Columbus, OH.

**Course Expectations and Rules**

Please follow the student hand-book for all the rules and expectations set by North Pointe Prep. These rules can be found in the front of the classroom.

- **Be on time:** Students are tardy if they are not in their assigned seat and ready to work when the final bell rings. Students arriving to class after bell work time is over must make up bell work

during tutoring or on their own time. Three unexcused tardies (and each unexcused tardy thereafter) will result in disciplinary consequences.

- **Respect Yourself and Others:** Please raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking. Please respect the teacher and other students by not speaking while they are. Please refrain from saying unkind things about yourself and others.
- **Be Prepared:** Please come to class with a proper writing utensil and other required materials daily. If homework has been assigned, please have that work completed and in class when due. Late work not due to an unexcused absence will result in a grade reduction and may not be accepted at all after an unreasonable amount of time. The teacher's discretion determines what constitutes an unreasonable amount of time.
- **Do Your Best Work:** Have pride in yourself and in the work you put your name on. I promise to put my best effort into every lesson I prepare for you; please return the favor in the work you complete for class.
- **Maintain an Environment for Learning:** You are not the only student in the room or in the building. Please keep your voices at a proper indoor level so that others can concentrate. Also, moving about the classroom without purpose is distracting to everyone. If you must get up, have a reason for doing so. Students who continue to disrupt class after verbal warnings will be referred to administration for disciplinary action.
- **Keep a Positive Attitude:** Everything in life is not easy. Parts of this class will be hard, but you absolutely can do it if you try! I'm here to guide you along the way. Please do not give up or otherwise refuse to complete an assignment because you think you can't. Likewise, do not discourage other students by saying or doing things that undermine their success. Again, your effort and your attitude go a long way.
- **Take Responsibility:** We all mess up. When you make a mistake, accept it, correct it, and move on. Don't make excuses or blame someone else.
- **Dress Appropriately:** Please stay within school dress code guidelines at all times. Furthermore, dress comfortably for the temperature both inside and outside the classroom. Blankets are not allowed in class, and the hood portion of "hoodies" may not be worn inside any building.
- **Use Your Time Wisely:** Most Science assignments are designed to be done in class, with homework kept to a minimum. If class time is given, please use it. Students who waste these opportunities will find themselves having more homework than their on-task classmates.

### Lab Activities

From time to time, this course involves lab activities. These activities often involve specialized equipment and/or expensive materials. Due to safety issues related to lab activities, students must respect the rules and equipment at all times. Students who do not follow directions, who do not maintain professional behavior, or who otherwise jeopardize the safety of others or the authenticity of lab results will NOT be permitted to participate in that lab (and possibly other labs in the future). They will instead observe, take notes, and complete an alternate assignment (usually a short essay) in order to receive a grade for the lab.

### Grades/Homework

Science is not homework-heavy, but occasionally there may be assignments to be completed on the students' own time. The purpose of homework is to reinforce or practice a skill, to provide the teacher with a "check for understanding" tool, and to help students with organization and time management. For

this last reason, some assignments may have long-term deadlines that must be managed by the students. Except in the case of research projects, homework will never be given on material we have not first covered in class, and will never be given over school breaks and holidays.

The Science Department calculates grades on a straight point system. Assignments and tests are not weighted. If something is more critical to your grade than something else, it will be worth more points.

Please check your online gradebooks frequently as I update them often. Students who do not have online access to their gradebooks may ask the teacher to check their grades before or after school (during tutoring), but class time will not be interrupted for a student's grade check.

Students whose grade falls to an "F" at any time after the first two weeks or a quarter will be required to complete an IAP (academic probation) AND are strongly advised to attend tutoring (Mondays and Wednesdays after school).

*Once enrolled, North Pointe does not accept course credit from other high school or online institutions.*

\* Please note that teaching assistants may be present in the classroom and may grade multiple-choice, true/false, participation-only, or other non-subjective portions of your student's work. TAs will never grade essays, projects, or labs, and will never have access to your child's gradebook.

<b>Other Reminders</b>
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Students are expected to use the bathroom before and after class, at lunch, and during passing periods. That said, emergencies arise, and no student will be denied bathroom privileges unless they are caught abusing them. Please note, when you use the bathroom during class time, you are choosing to miss a portion of class. Class does not pause while you are gone, and any information missed or work not completed must be made up during tutoring. North Pointe policy prohibits bathroom use during the first and last five minutes of a class period.

Cell phones are to be stowed in student backpacks (not pockets) and remain unseen and unheard during class time. Cell phones/backpacks may not be taken into the bathroom. Other personal electronic devices (tablets, smart watches, earbuds, etc.) also may not be used. If the teacher determines that an assignment or activity would benefit from electronic usage, special permission will be obtained from administration. Students violating any school rules via those devices will be referred for disciplinary action and may be banned from future electronic usage.

<b>Supplies</b>
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**Required Supplies**

Pencils

Pens

Eraser(s)

One box of colored pencils (at least 8 different colors)

Highlighters

Glue stick(s)

Pencil box or pouch to organize above materials

Loose leaf notebook paper

1 1/2" binder

FREE CHOICE READING BOOK - grade level and appropriate

**Optional supplies**

Post-it notes

Index cards

Ruler with metric measurements

**Classroom Supplies/Voluntary Donations**

From time to time, parents ask if they can contribute items to the classroom. Absolutely, YES, but this is 100% voluntary. If you wish to donate something, the following items are always needed:

Kleenex

Hand sanitizer

Clorox/Lysol wipes

Extra pencils/pens

Extra loose leaf paper

Extra glue sticks or liquid glue

Construction paper

Markers/Sharpies

Poster boards

White board markers/erasers

Fun-sized candy (prizes for review games)

## Parents, Guardians, and Students

Please fill out the information to acknowledge you have read and understood the syllabus. All North Pointe Policies and applicable guidelines from the student handbook will be observed and followed in the classroom.

Please return this page by **signed and dated** by \_\_\_\_\_.

Please feel free to email me at [tjweaver@pointeschools.org](mailto:tjweaver@pointeschools.org) if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. I look forward to getting to know you and your student, and to having a wonderful year!

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Student Signature

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Student Name (Please Print)

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

### Parent/Guardian Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_