**8th Grade Science Syllabus**

**Welcome!**

**Legends Team**

 Mrs. Prindle

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Welcome to Legends Science! I look forward to the 2013-2014 school year! This syllabus contains important information that will help us have a productive and successful year.

**I. Classroom Expectations**

Each student is expected to follow the Lakeview Middle School policies and code of conduct. I would like to emphasize the following:

* Students are to be in class on time. They should take their seats and begin on the Science Starter. I follow and enforce the school’s tardy policy for students who are late to class without a pass.
* Students are expected to come to class prepared to learn. This means students need to have all necessary materials (textbook, science notebook, red checking pen, planner, book in hand, paper and pencil).
* Every student has the right to an education in a safe and non-threatening

environment. No one has the right to disrupt the learning of others and those students who do will be dealt with promptly.

* Everyone deserves respect and courtesy. Please demonstrate this to each other and all adults in the building.
* Participation in class is vital to success so it is important that students pay

attention and take an active role in the class.

* ![C:\Users\Vanessa.Vanessa-PC\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\X5B4KJ0T\MCj03797770000[1].wmf]()Please raise your hand before speaking.
* Please ask permission before leaving your seat.
* Please follow directions the first time they are given.
* Cell phones are not permitted in the classroom. Any cell phones in the classroom will be sent to the office. Parents will need to pick up the phone. Students needing to make a phone call can ask to use a teacher’s phone.

**II. Grading**

Grades will be a combination of formative and summative assessments. Summative and formative assessments include tests, quizzes, labs, and projects and will account for 80% of a student’s grade. Daily classroom work and homework will account for 20% of the final grade.

* Other than being absent, a student is not excused from taking the test. Being absent only the day before the test does not excuse the student from taking the test.
* Students will be allowed one retake of any assessment over 15 points if their score is below 90%. Qualification for reassessment must be met prior to retake. Retakes must be taken within two weeks of receiving the graded assessment.
* All grades will be posted on PowerSchool. Grades will be updated on or before scheduled posting days.
* Assignments are often graded in class. You will be expected to grade work using a red pen/pencil. **Do not use a pencil for grading!!!** Incorrect grading (i.e. not counting incorrect answer wrong, incorrectly adding up missed points) is cheating and will result in an office discipline referral for academic dishonesty.

**GRADING SCALE**

100% A+

94– 99% A

90 – 93% A-

87 – 89% B+

83 – 86% B

80 – 82% B-

77 – 79% C+

73 – 76% C

70 – 72% C-

67 – 69% D+

63 – 66% D

60 – 62% D-

Below 60 F

**III. Homework:**

* Homework allows you to practice and review the material and skills that we are learning in class or help you come to class prepared for the lesson. Not completing homework will make it difficult for you to pass the assessments.
* Homework should be neatly and carefully completed as directed. Work that does not meet these standards may be returned to the student to be rewritten. Take pride in your work! **If you don’t have time to do it right, you must have time to do it over!**

**IV. Make-up Work:**

* Students are responsible for getting their work for either a planned or unplanned absence. Students should get all assignments on their first day back to class. A packet with your name on it will be placed in the absent work folders at the front of the room. It is your responsibility to get this packet and ask questions if you need help.
* Students have the same number of days to make up the work as days they missed. If a test or quiz is missed then the student must schedule a make-up day within one week or receive a grade incomplete.
* Failure to complete make-up work will result in a zero. Do not procrastinate with make-up work.

**V. Science Notebook**

Students are expected to keep a 3 ring binder for this class. The notebook is needed every day of class. Please organize and keep all work in this binder. The notebook will be kept in five sections.

**Section 1: Learning Goals**

**Section 2: Class Notes**

**Section 3: Reference Sheets**

**Section 4: HW**

**Section 5: Graded Work**

**VI. Attendance**

Regular attendance is necessary for school success. While students can make up work, nothing can replace classroom instruction. Students who miss school miss out on carefully planned sequences of instruction. They miss out on active learning experiences and class participation. They miss out on the opportunity to ask questions. They are more likely to fall behind and they are more likely to drop out. We encourage all students to have the best attendance possible. Please try to avoid planning family trips and non-emergency appointments which conflict with school attendance.

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Academic dishonesty will be handled according to the school handbook. These behaviors are considered academic dishonesty:

* + Copying answers from another student’s paper.
	+ Giving another student your paper to copy answers from.
	+ Changing answers on your paper or another student’s paper while grading
	+ Not counting answers incorrect while grading your paper.
	+ Incorrectly adding up missed points.
	+ Plagiarizing material from other sources.
	+ Writing on your hand or other parts of the body for a quiz or test.
	+ Communicating with other students in the exam either directly or indirectly through bits of paper or hand signals.
	+ Submitting another student's work as your own.
	+ Using electronic means to provide questions or answers to another student or receive questions or answers.
	+ Telling another student questions or answers to an assignment, quiz, or test.

**VIII. Curriculum:**

This is an overview of the topics that we will cover. This is not necessarily the order in which the topics will be taught.

Scientific Inquiry

 Chapter 1 “Lab Safety”

 Chapter 2 “Measurement”

 Chapter 3 “Scientific Method”

Chemical Interactions:

 Chapter 1 “Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table”

 Chapter 2 “Chemical Compounds and Bonds”

 Chapter 3 “Chemical Reactions”

The Earth’s Surface:

 Chapter 2 “Minerals”

 Chapter 3 “Rocks”

The Changing Earth:

 Chapter 1 “Plate Tectonics”

 Chapter 2 “Earthquakes”

 Chapter 3 “Mountains and Volcanoes”

 Chapter 4 “Views of Earth’s Past”

Cells and Heredity:

 Chapter 1 “The Cell”

 Chapter 2 “How Cells Function”

 Chapter 3 “Cell Division”

 Chapter 4 ”Patterns of Heredity”

Human Biology:

 Chapter 1 “Systems, Support, and Movement”

Chapter 2 “Absorption, Digestion, and Exchange”

Chapter 3 “Transport and Protection”

Chapter 4 “Control and Reproduction”

Chapter 5 “Growth, Development, and Health”

Frog Dissections

**IX. Laboratory:**

Throughout the year we will conduct science labs and experiments. Prior to our first lab we will cover laboratory safety expectations. While performing laboratory experiments, students are expected to follow all classroom rules and all laboratory safety rules (see laboratory safety rules contract).

**X. Hall Passes:**

Students are expected to perform all out of class activities (going to the restroom, gathering belongings from your locker, etc.) during the passing period and before the bell rings. Once class begins, hall passes will only be given for emergencies. **Please come to class prepared and ready to go. Interruptions only hinder my teaching and the learning of you and your classmates!**

**Classroom Procedures**

**Procedure #1 – Entering the classroom**

* Make sure you have all necessary materials for the class (pencil, paper, book in hand, planner science binder, textbook)
* Enter the classroom quietly.
* Go to your assigned seat.
* Follow the directions for the Science Starter.

**Procedure #2 – When you are tardy (not in seat when bell rings)**

* Enter the room quietly. (If you are already in the room, go to the next step.)
* Inform teacher of your excuse or give teacher your tardy pass.
* Go to your seat after you are given permission to do so.
* You will not be excused from any work you missed. Get the assignment from a classmate and do it at home or during life education time if permitted.

**Procedure #3 – After the bell rings**

* Fill out planner.
* **When you finish, read your book-in-hand book** until the class is ready to move on.

**Procedure #4 – Science Starter**

* Follow the direction for the Science starter as soon as you enter the room.
* If the starter is an assignment, it will need to be made up if you are absent.

**Procedure #5– During the lesson**

* Listen to the teacher with full attention.
* No pencil sharpening, talking, or whispering. Please wait until after the lesson to throw away trash or get tissues.
* Ask permission to speak by raising your hand. Do not blurt out.
* Ask questions related to the subject. Other questions which are not related to the subject can be asked after the lesson.
* After lesson, make sure you understand the concept. If not, ask questions by mentioning which part you didn’t understand.

**Procedure #6 – While you are working**

* Make sure you read or listen to the directions about your work and that you understand them.
* If you don’t understand, quietly ask help from other students sitting around you. If they also don’t understand, ask the teacher to explain it.
* If you are asked to help, be polite and kind and offer your best.
* Talking to each other should be no louder than a whisper. The person sitting on the other side of the room should not be interrupted by your noise.
* Respect each other and be friendly.
* Use your time wisely. Put forth your best effort to finish your work on time.

**Procedure #7 –When you are absent**

* Go to the absent work folders.
* Find the folder for the day of the week you were absent.
* Get out the packet with your name.
* At a convenient time, ask teacher for any information you may need to complete the assignment or to clear up any confusion about the assignment.
* Make sure you turn in anything that was due while you were gone.
* When the work is complete, stamp it with the date you are turning it in and place it in the absent work folder for your class.
* You will have one day for each day missed to make up any work.
* Makeup work will be placed in the Legends HW box outside Mr. Zipfel’s room ONLY if a parent calls and requests work.

**Procedure #8 –What to do when done with your work**

* Double check all work for accuracy.
* **Read your Book in Hand book** or magazine. Talking is not an option unless given permission to do so.

**Procedure # 9 – Turning in papers**

* One person from each group will be responsible for collecting papers for their group and bringing them to me. It will not be the same person every time. Each day, listen for who the paper collector will be.
* Please make sure all papers are facing the same direction.

**Procedure #10 – MOBI usage**

* Please respect the equipment.
* Do not change color, font, etc. unless given permission to do so.
* Drawing pictures or writing information other than what is required for the classroom activity is not acceptable and will result in a citizenship mark.

**Procedure #11 – Classroom discussions**

* “Sticks of Truth” will be used during most discussion. This ensures that all students will participate.
* Be respectful of the person talking whether that is the teacher or a classmate.
* Any other questions and comments should be relevant to the current discussion.
* If your question is off the topic, write it down and ask later.

**Procedure #12 – Moving around the room**

* You must ask permission unless it is individual work time.
* Do not ask permission during class discussion or instruction unless it is an emergency.
* Do not stop to visit with students when you are out of your seat.

**Procedure #13 – Headings**

* All papers should have a proper heading in the top right hand corner.
* The heading should include first and last name, the date, and the hour.
* **Papers with no name will not be graded**. No name papers will be put in a folder in the front of the room. You may get it, put your name on it, stamp it with the date, and turn it into the absent/late work folder.

**Procedure #14 – Lost copies of work**

* Go the Legends website ([www.lmslegends.weebly.com](http://www.lmslegends.weebly.com)) and find the missing worksheet.
* Print it out at home or at school during an appropriate time.
* DO NOT ask for another copy until you have looked for it on the website.

**Procedure #15 – Dismissal**

* Do not start packing up prior to the bell.
* If I am still instructing when the bell rings, I will dismiss you when I am finished and send an email to your next hour’s teachers.