

West Point Middle School - Integrated Science II and III

B-9 Student Guide for Success

Course Focus: The DoDEA/DDESS Integrated Science II and III courses encompass concepts in physical, life, earth and space sciences. The inquiry-based lessons will actively engage all students through hands-on activities while exploring and reinforcing key skills and concepts. Additional goals include applying the concepts to real-world situations, emphasizing a seamless web of knowledge about the universe, and developing skills for advancement in a technologically-rich, global environment. For details of the outlined units, please see the last page of this guide.

Behavior

For your safety, no food will be consumed in our laboratory/classroom; See the *Laboratory Safety Guidelines* to make sure you are not violating the no-eating zone.

Please don't trash your classroom. Students who mark on desks or leave trash behind will be asked to clean the affected area.

Students are encouraged to take part in class discussions but only after being recognized (raised hand) and given the floor. Be courteous and listen to those who are speaking.

Safety

We will observe and follow strict procedures that ensure the safety of all students in the lab or the classroom. You will receive specific instructions on safety precautions prior to each activity. In all our activities, we will employ good common sense and a serious attitude. See the *Safety Contract and Science Behavior Guide* for disciplinary actions.

Absences and Make-up Work

If you are absent only one day, you will be expected to turn-in any assignment given on the day that you return.

If you are absent for two or more days, you will need to set a schedule for making up your work. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to make-up all missed assignments.

Tardiness

See school policies. You will be tardy if you are not in your assigned seat when the tardy bell rings. Please attend to personal hygiene, phone calls, bathroom visits, and the sharpening of pencils between classes and before the tardy bell.

Class Materials

All materials listed below should be brought to class each and every day.

- Pen and pencil
- Loose leaf paper
- Science Binder
- Calculator/ruler

The adopted textbook versions for Integrated Science II and III are *Glencoe Science Green Level* and *Glencoe Science Blue Level*. Please cover the issued textbook and properly ensure its good condition over the school year. Students may not wish to carry a textbook home and may wish to use the on-line version using the username and password given in class.

On-line textbooks:

http://www.glencoe.com/sites/common_assets/science/ose/

Grades

Grades are based on the scale outlined in the student handbook. The breakdown of assignment types and their respective weights are as follows:

Class work/Investigations/Lab Reports.....35%
Homework.....15%
Quizzes.....20%
Tests/Projects.....30%

All assignments are to be written in blue or black ink, or pencil. Pages torn out of spirals and turned in for an assignment will not be accepted.

Assignments for grading are turned in by placing it in your class basket at the front of the room. Once you turn in an assignment, you may not remove it from my basket without my permission. This is for your protection.

Homework contributes toward building self-discipline, responsibility and lifelong learning habits. It is my intention to assign relevant challenging and meaningful homework assignments that reinforce the lesson objectives. As appropriate, homework assignments are modified based on students' individual needs. The main purposes generally associated with homework are as follows:

- To give students a chance to review and practice what they have learned
- To prepare students for the next day's lesson
- To provide opportunities to identify and learn to use resources such as the library, the Internet, reference books, and other community resources
- To allow for more in-depth exploration of topics than is possible during class time
- To provide parents with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their children

Late homework is accepted but will receive a 10 point deduction for each day that it is late. Please do not allow yourself to lessen your grade with missed learning opportunities.

Homework will receive the three following types of grades:

+ (100%) – a plus is given for excellent work that is for the most part correct and the indication is that you understand the material.

✓ (80%) – a check indicates satisfactory effort and relevant understanding of material.

- (50%) – a minus is given if the work was attempted but is for the most unsatisfactory with no relevant gains. Resubmit this work **next class** to receive points as a late grade. (Maximum 80% as a redo for homework)

Class work offers immediate feedback for both the student and teacher. The daily learning objectives set at the beginning of class will be assessed through an activity completed by the end of the class.

Lab work provides hands-on learning opportunities to teach and reinforce science concepts. Students will develop skills independently, in partner teams, and in cooperative groups. All lab reports will be submitted as an individual with independent answers. Even though labs may be conducted with another student, the written results must reflect a personal experience of data analysis, conclusion, and reflection. See the **Lab Report Guide** for help in submitting a thorough report for grading purposes.

Science Binders and Portfolios will capture and organize your important documents, topic notes, and graded assessments as stated in the **Science Binder and Portfolio Guide**. While the portfolio will remain in the classroom at all times, students are welcome to check it out for parents to view. Binders must come to class every session and should be reviewed nightly for study of topics and for completion of assignments.

Assistance: Extra help is available anytime after school except on Wednesdays. I only ask that you let me know when you are coming in for assistance for I collaborate with other teachers at this time if no students need my assistance.

Contact: Please feel free to contact the teachers of West Point Middle School via email using the FirstName.LastName@am.dodea.edu or call 938-2923. All email and phone messages will be viewed by 2:15 PM on most days. Meetings take priority over our scheduled events.

Please know that we will return your call or message after the students are dismissed in most cases as not to take away from the learning environment. Emergencies are certainly an exception and the office should be contacted to guarantee the message is communicated in a timely manner.

Curricular Units

DoDEA/DDESS Curriculum Standards are outlined below. All science teachers are now able to guide their students through the learning process using organized and timely sequences. Therefore, transferring students from one DoDEA/DDESS school to the next will be assured continuity in their learning.

7th Grade: Integrated Science II Curriculum Units and Timeline

- Unit 1 - Investigating Mixtures – 4 weeks
- Unit 2 - Investigating Objects in Motion Part 1 - 5 weeks
- Unit 3 - Energy Transfer in Electrical Circuits – 3 weeks
- Unit 4 - Heredity – 6 weeks
- Unit 5 - Cells to Systems – 3 weeks
- Unit 6 - Diseases – 2 weeks
- Unit 7 - Plate Tectonics – 4 weeks
- Unit 8 – Formation of Rocks and History – 4 weeks
- Unit 9 - Earth in the Solar System – 5 weeks

8th Grade: Integrated Science III Curriculum Units and Timeline

- Unit 1 Investigating Objects in Motion Part 2 – 4 weeks
- Unit 2 Exploring Physical and Chemical Change - 5 weeks
- Unit 3 Investigating the Transfer of Heat Energy - 3 weeks
- Unit 4 Air and Water on Earth - 6 weeks
- Unit 5 Beyond the Solar System – 5 weeks
- Unit 6 Energy for Cells – 4 weeks
- Unit 7 Populations and Limiting Factors – 3 weeks
- Unit 8 Natural Selection and Evolution - 6 weeks