



**Pine Middle School**  
"Home of the Patriots"

## Science Department

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### COURSE OVERVIEW & EXPECTATIONS

**Course Description:** Welcome to the exciting world of Science! We are thrilled to have you in our classes and look forward to a productive and fun-filled year. Integrated Science is taught at the Middle School level in WCSD (Washoe County School District). This means, every year you will explore concepts in all three science content areas: Life, Physical and Earth Science. The curriculum is designed to expose you to Core Concepts, Scientific and Engineering Practices and Crosscutting Concepts. During this school year, we will explore the dynamic nature of the world around us and how science impacts our daily lives. As young scientists, you will continue to learn proper lab techniques and basic skills to prepare you for future science classes.

#### Course Goals:

1. To identify and critically evaluate information in data, tables, and graphs and know there are multiple methods for organizing items and information.
2. To evaluate information to distinguish between fact and opinion and know different explanations can be given for the same evidence.
3. Design and conduct a controlled experiment and know how to use appropriate technology and laboratory procedures safely for observing, measuring, recording, and analyzing data.
4. Recognize that scientific inquiry includes evaluating results of scientific investigations experiments observations, theoretical and mathematical models, and explanations proposed by other scientists.
5. Examine the consequences of technologies which can cause resource depletion and environmental degradation, but understand that technology can also increase resource availability, mitigate environmental degradation, and make new resources economical.

**Student Planners:** Students will be expected to make daily entries into their planner showing objectives, homework, due dates, test days, holidays, and school events. Using the planner appropriately reinforces accountability and will result in individual and group success. The planner provides daily opportunities for parent/teacher communication.

**Tracking Grades:** At the middle school level, students are required to take the lead role in tracking their class progress; therefore, there is a shared responsibility between teachers, parents, and students to check grades in Infinite Campus for accuracy and to take steps to address missed work in a timely manner to ensure success.

**Hours of Availability:** Due to various meetings and commitments, each teacher is potentially available, by appointment, from 7:15 to 7:30 in the morning and 2:15 to 2:40 in the afternoon. You may also e-mail your teacher and s/he will respond as soon as possible.



**Middle School Course Content:** *(The order of topics does not imply the instructional sequence)*

Washoe County School District Integrated Middle School Science Curriculum – August 2016				
Grade	Life Sciences	Earth and Space Sciences	Physical Science	Engineering
8	<p><b>Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity (Variation, Natural Selection, and Adaptations)</b> MS-LS4-1, MS-LS4-2, MS-LS4-3, MS-LS4-4, MS-LS4-5, MS-LS4-6</p> <p><b>Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits</b> MS-LS3-1</p>	<p><b>Earth’s Place in the Universe (Lunar phases, seasons, solar system)</b> MS-ESS1-1, MS-ESS1-2, MS-ESS1-3, MS-ESS1-4</p> <p><b>Earth &amp; Human Activity (Population &amp; Natural Resources)</b> MS-ESS-3-4</p>	<p><b>Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer</b> MS-PS4-1, MS-PS4-2, MS-PS4-3</p> <p><b>Energy (Kinetic &amp; Potential Energy)</b> MS-PS3-1, MS-PS3-2</p> <p><b>Forces and Interactions</b> MS-PS2-1, MS-PS2-2, MS-PS2-3, MS-PS2-4, MS-PS2-5</p>	<p><b>6-8 Engineering Design</b> MS-ETS1-1 MS-ETS1-2 MS-ETS1-3 MS-ETS1-4</p>
7	<p><b>From Molecules to Organisms: Structure, Function, &amp; Processes (Photosynthesis)</b> MS-LS1-6, MS-LS1-7</p> <p><b>Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics</b> MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-2, MS-LS2-3, MS-LS2-4, MS-LS2-5</p>	<p><b>Earth’s Systems</b> MS-ESS2-1, MS-ESS2-2, MS-ESS2-3</p> <p><b>Earth &amp; Human Activity</b> MS-ESS3-1, MS-ESS3-2</p>	<p><b>Matter &amp; Its Interactions (Structure and Properties of Matter &amp; Chemical Reactions)</b> MS-PS1-1, MS-PS1-2, MS-PS1-3, MS-PS1-4, MS-PS1-5, MS-PS1-6</p>	
6	<p><b>From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes</b> MS-LS1-1, MS-LS1-2, MS-LS1-3, MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MS-LS1-8</p> <p><b>Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits</b> MS-LS3-2</p>	<p><b>Earth’s Systems (Water Cycle &amp; Weather)</b> MS-ESS2-4, MS-ESS2-5, MS-ESS2-6</p> <p><b>Earth &amp; Human Activity</b> MS-ESS3-3, MS-ESS3-5</p>	<p><b>Energy (Energy Transfer)</b> MS-PS3-3, MS-PS3-4, MS-PS3-5</p>	

**Academic Honesty/Plagiarism:** Work assigned to students must be completed in an honest manner. This means doing one’s own work. In cases where students are copying assignments BOTH students will receive a zero on the assignment and referred for disciplinary action. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of somebody else’s words or ideas. Because of electronic formats, plagiarism has never been easier to commit. This issue is fully discussed in Language Arts and Social Studies classes and the science classes ascribe to the same expectation for citing sources on all assignments.

**SMARTech Policy:** At the start of each class, all cell phones will be placed in a phone caddy for the duration of the class. Use of phones during class to enhance and facilitate the classroom experience will be at the **teacher’s discretion ONLY**. If phones are permitted, all devices must be used appropriately according to the WCSD Technology Acceptable Use Policy. Violations will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the planner. If a student volunteers to use their smart technology during a classroom activity, when permitted, they automatically assume responsibility for the safety of that device.

**Attendance and Missing Work:** All students are expected to be seated in the classroom by the time the tardy bell rings. When a student is absent, they are expected to complete work assigned during their absence. To assist students in meeting the district attendance requirements, teachers will provide a self-service kiosk with copies of assignments available to all students. All late assignments will be marked down by 10% when received within two weeks of the due date and will receive only 50% thereafter. No assignment may be turned in after the completion of a unit.

**Bathroom Passes:** Students are expected to use the bathroom while passing between classes and will be allowed only 3 bathroom passes during class per **quarter**.

