

# 7<sup>th</sup> grade Science Syllabus and Class Expectations

## Mrs. Schymick

Email: [sschymick@rochester.k12.mi.us](mailto:sschymick@rochester.k12.mi.us)



### Textbook and curriculum

The science program Van Hoosen Middle School is using is MI-STAR. We will also use the following textbooks as reference tool: Weather and Atmosphere, Cells, Waves, Sound and Light, Forces and Motion, and Water.

### Technology

I update my website weekly. This is where you can get an overview of what we are currently doing, great supplemental links, important news, the syllabus and class expectations, citizenship codes, dates for upcoming tests, and so on. Please use it to your advantage.

### Guidelines and Expectations

- You should be in your seat when the bell rings, ready to start class. If you are late to class (not in seat when bell rings) that constitutes a tardy. There are no free passes back to lockers to get forgotten materials. Should you need to go back, a tardy will be issued. Three tardies earns a school detention.
- You may not talk while I am talking or a member of the class is sharing.
- I expect you to follow the school Viking POWER routines at all times, and they are posted in the room.
- We expect academic honesty in all class work. Cheating will not be tolerated. Any form of cheating will result in a consequence of loss of credit at the teacher's discretion.
- If a substitute should leave your name for inappropriate behavior, a detention will automatically be issued.

### Communication

I highly value your partnership in supporting your child in his/her growth this year. Here are some ways to stay connected:

- Email/Phone: If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at [sschymick@rochester.k12.mi.us](mailto:sschymick@rochester.k12.mi.us) or call me at (248) 726-4900.
- Webpage Access: Remember to check out Mrs. Schymick's webpage:
  - Go to: [www.rochester.k12.mi.us/vanhoosen](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us/vanhoosen)
  - Click on Classroom News (in the left hand column)
  - Click on Schymick
  - Click on Science 7

### Supplies:

Rochester Community Schools provides all necessary materials and supplies for curricular classes. Parents who wish to supplement these materials and supplies for their student in this class may consider purchasing the following:

- **Composition notebook (100 sheets, college rule or wide rule)**
- **Pencils, Lined Paper, Colored Pencils, Scissors/Glue Stick, Highlighter, Red Pens, Clear tape**
- **Please consider donating 1 box of Kleenex to share, cleaning wipes, and a small hand sanitizer to keep us germs free☺**

### Interactive Science Notebook (ISN)

Students should use a composition notebook for every unit studied. This will be used every day for inquiry, vocabulary, lab questions, projects, notes, etc. A table of contents is to be maintained taped on the inside cover.

### Labs/Projects/Tests

We will be doing labs numerous times throughout the school year. The purpose of the lab is to provide you with concrete, hands-on experiences dealing with various science concepts. It also gives you the opportunity to work with various classmates throughout the year. Labs and projects may be done in groups or individually depending on the assignment. Tests will follow each unit and will be announced in advance. With the Mi-STAR program, it is mainly lab and discussion based learning. For that reason, it cannot be replicated when students are absent. Attendance is critical.

### Homework

Students will be given class time to work on assignments that reflect their understanding of the learning target presented in class. If it is not finished, they will be expected to complete it as homework. If you come to class without your work completed—you are still required to do it.

\*When absent, it is **your** responsibility to complete any late work that has been missed. Check the classroom agenda along with my website to determine the work you missed. Some make-up work, like labs, may require coming in for lunch or after/before school. Remember, with the Mi-STAR program, the focus is around hands-on labs and discussion which cannot be replicated when students are absent.

**Grading Procedures: What is Standards Based Learning?**

In this class, all assignments and assessments are aligned to student-friendly learning targets which are correlated to the Michigan Science Standards. All assessments will receive a “grade” based on the understanding of the target, not completion of the work. The reason for Standard Based Learning/Grading is it easily communicates how students are performing on a specific skill at a given time. All items are aligned to the learning standards and will receive a score based on a 4 point scale. By providing scores by standards, versus assignments, students and parents can track how they are doing on a specific standard, and will know exactly what the student needs to practice before the end of the unit.

**How are Grades Determined?**

Grades are based 100% on tests, quizzes, checkpoints, or project based assessments only. Homework, bellwork, notes, and in class assignments will be given throughout the week and some items recorded in the grade book, but they will not change the overall grade. Practice work does not count towards the grade. My experiences have proven students that are not doing their homework and class work, do not perform as well on assessments.

**Standard Based Learning:**

Students will scored according to performance aligned with state standards. The following rubric will be used to determine the student’s proficiency level.

<b>Advanced 4</b>	<b>Proficient 3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I can correctly and consistently answer all problems and apply the concept to other situations – real life, fictional, interdisciplinary.</li> <li>- I can explain the most important information related to the standard in words with detail.</li> <li>- I can use content related vocabulary/language consistently and accurately.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I can correctly and consistently answer most problems related to the standard</li> <li>- I can explain the most important information related to the standard in words with some detail.</li> <li>- I can use content related vocabulary/language accurately most of the time.</li> </ul>
<b>Partially Proficient 2</b>	<b>Not Proficient Yet 1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I can correctly answer some problems to related the standard</li> <li>- I can explain the most important information related to the standard, but the details are fuzzy or non-existent.</li> <li>- I can sometimes use content related vocabulary/language accurately.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I can correctly answer few to no problems related to the standard</li> <li>- I am very limited in my ability to explain the standard in words.</li> <li>- I can rarely or never use content related vocabulary/language accurately.</li> </ul>

***A score of a 3 or 4 is necessary for mastery of this course.***

**I am excited to get to know you, and look forward to a fun, productive, and interactive year in science!**

- Mrs. Schymick



\*\*Return this sheet to your **SCIENCE teacher** by Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>\*\*

**Student & Parent Acknowledgement**

Seventh grade is an important year in which we encourage students to take ownership of their learning. To foster this independence we ask that you encourage your child to take the initiative to communicate with their teacher about their academic progress if they have questions.

Please sign below that you have read and discussed the course objectives, materials, procedures, rules, and consequences. All of the above is posted on my website for reference. The class website and MyRCS are updated regularly and links can be found at <http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us>. Please check these resources regularly to stay informed of class updates and student progress.

Student's name (print and signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's daytime phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Dear parents, please describe your child in few words. I would really like to get to know him/her better. (Their interests, character, learning abilities/preferences, interesting facts©...):

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**Dear Parents:**

**If you know of any possible speakers (including yourself) relating to one of our objectives, or a career in the sciences, please let me know. This is always a treat, and a wonderful application to student learning!**

Speaker Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Topic \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Will you or the speaker be available to speak to all of the science classes (7:30 - 12:00)?

Yes? No? (Please circle one)