

Course Overview for 8th grade General Science

Instructor: Julie Wright

email: julie@hillsidesc.org (I always answer within 24 hours, and usually sooner).

Logistics: General science will be offered three times this year. During each trimester there are 3 rotating blocks, A, B and C. This course will be offered in the B-block from 11:40-3 pm in the afternoon. General Science consists of 3 parts. The course is divided up by dates and explained below:

Chemistry portion of General Science (***October 10-31***)

Human Biology portion of General Science (***January 6-28***)

“Energy and the Environment” portion of General Science (***February 27-March 24***)

Teaching philosophy:

1. **Didactic** – Lectures and class demonstrations.
2. **Storytelling** – Creating motivation and introducing new concepts with stories which help make abstract content more interesting and may help create a context for real-world problem-solving.
3. **Questioning** – Use of questions to stimulate analytical reasoning. Also includes homework, tests and quizzes.
4. **Active engagement** – Use of activities to make learning fun. ***We will do experiments in chemistry, dissections in human biology and field trips in the energy and the environment component.***
5. **Responsibility in learning** – I want to help students reach their scientific learning goals, and in order to do this, I will provide accountability that feels fair and anticipated.

Tentative Grading Outline: *(subject to change)*

30% - tests and quizzes

30% - in-class work

20% - projects and labs

20% - all other homework. Late homework will need to be excused by a parent or guardian for an unavoidable absence or family reason. Without some communication from parents/guardians, late homework will receive an equitable penalty.

How students can succeed in General Science:

1. Come prepared to learn (get 8 hours of sleep, eat breakfast, lunch and dinner without excessive sugar and with plenty of protein, complete homework from previous day, let me know if there are any emotional stressors going on at home or elsewhere that may affect performance)
2. Bring materials to class everyday (pencil, head phones, laptop, composition book*, planner* and folder*; please put completed homework in folder)
3. Ask questions: I want to know if there is any lack of understanding. These blocks are only 16-17 course days, and we will delve deeply into the material in a rapid fashion. I will adjust my approach accordingly to aid student learning.
4. Do the homework (expect up to an hour of homework 5 nights per week with the possibility of longer projects once per week, please have a quiet desk or table set up for the student at home in order for them to study). Students will write down their assignments in a planner and homework assignments will be posted in the Hillside Homework Calendar with the code “Gen Sci” at: <http://hscschool.org/community/teacher-pages/course-information/7-11-homework-calendars/>
5. Communicate with me in a timely manner if problems arise, we can come up with solutions.

* provided by Hillside already.