



## I. Course Scope and Goals:

A. **Course Scope:** This one-year course is designed to integrate science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and core ideas from life sciences, Earth and space sciences, and the physical sciences. The topics covered in Science 8 include Forces and Interactions; Energy; Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation; Space System; Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms; Natural Selection and Adaptations; and Engineering Design. Demonstrations and lab experiences that employ proper safety techniques are essential to this course. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the eighth-grade science requirement.

## B. Course Goals:

1. To use graphical analysis and modeling to explain the potential and kinetic energy of objects within a system. [MS-PS3- 1, MS-PS3- 2]
2. To conduct experiments investigating Newton's Laws of Motion and apply the design cycle to a problem demonstrating the relationship between force and motion. [MS-PS2- 1, MS-PS2- 2, MSETS1-1, MS-ETS1- 2, MS-ETS1- 3, MS-ETS1- 4]
3. To examine the factors that affect electrical and magnetic forces between interacting objects. [MS- PS2-3, MS-PS2- 5]
4. To explain how gravity influences interactions between objects of differing masses on Earth and in space. [MS-ESS1- 2, MS-PS2- 4]
5. To investigate the properties of objects in the solar system and analyze the cyclical patterns of the Earth-sun- moon system. [MS-ESS1- 1, MS-ESS1- 3]
6. To describe the properties of waves and explain how waves are used as an effective means to transmit information. [MS-PS4- 1, MS-PS4- 2, MS-PS4- 3]
7. To model the effects of genetic mutations on organisms and analyze how technology has influenced the process of artificial selection. [MS-LS3- 1, MS-LS4- 5]
8. To infer evolutionary relationships of organisms based on evidence in the fossil record and by comparing anatomical structures and embryological development. [MS-LS4- 1, MS-LS4- 2, MS-LS4-3]
9. To use probability and proportional reasoning to explain how genetic variations, environmental factors, and natural selection cause populations to change over time. [MS-LS4- 4, MS-LS4- 6]

## II. Course content and time schedule (sequential)

- A. Unit 1: Forces and Interactions (10 weeks)
- B. Unit 2: Gravity and Space (4 weeks)
- C. Unit 3: Waves and Information Transfer (5 weeks)
- D. Unit 4: Heredity (6 weeks)
- E. Unit 5: Natural Selection and Adaptation (8 weeks)

### III. Evaluation

- A. Grading Policy: Nevada State Standards will be used to distribute grades and marks.
  - 1. 75% Assessment: Exams, Quizzes, Labs, and Projects.
  - 2. 25% Practice: Participation Points, Classwork, Lab Prep, and Homework.
  - 3. Special projects.
- B. Semester exams will be worth 20% of the SEMESTER grade.
  - 1. Semester exams will not be administered early. Students who are absent may make-up their exams on the district approved make-up day.
- C. Explanation of student grades
  - 1. A 100 – 90%
  - 2. B 89 – 80%
  - 3. C 79 – 70%
  - 4. D 69 – 60%
  - 5. F 59 and below
- D. How and when students will be advised of their grades
  - 1. Parents and students are urged to check the Infinite Campus Portal for grades regularly.
  - 2. Parents and students should check Google Classroom for assigned work and due dates.
- E. Citizenship/behavior expectations and criteria:
  - 1. Outstanding-Meets all criteria for a satisfactory level performance. Contributes willingly and effectively relevant information during class discussions. Shows leadership and works well with peers. Always has a positive attitude toward teacher, substitute teacher, and peers.
  - 2. Satisfactory-Consistently follows class rules. Is on task most of the time. Comes prepared to class most of the time.
  - 3. Needs Improvement-Needs constant redirection. Disruptive behavior. Is disrespectful toward teacher, substitute teacher, and peers. Excessive tardies and absences.
  - 4. Unsatisfactory- Has been notified of “needs improvement” status and shows no improvement.

### IV. **Late Work policy – If a student does not complete any assignment (for reasons other than an absence), they will be assigned a make-up work detention the following school day from 3:30 to 4:25 EVEN if they turn the assignment in the next school day.**

- A. Absent students are responsible for getting work in within 3 days upon return and completing it by the date agreed upon by teacher and student.
- B. Students have one week after a grade has been entered in infinite campus to receive full credit. After one week there will be a 50% point deduction on all late work.

### V. **Test retake policy – A student may only retake a test if 1) all assignments have been turned in 2) the student has asked for help, clarification, or exhibited evidence of further studying and a further mastery of the subject matter.**

VI. **Missing work:** Students should check Google classroom and the hanging folder in the front of the room for work/tests.

VII. **School-Wide Rules**

- A. Follow directions quickly.
- B. Raise your hand for permission to speak.
- C. Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat
- D. Make SMART Choices: Kindness, Leadership, Courage, Invincible Grit, Creativity
- E. Work hard to do your best for your teachers and parents at all times.
- F. Keep your eyes on the target.

VIII. **TARDY POLICY – Progressive Steps**

- A. 1st Tardy – Warning & Parent Phone Contact
- B. 2nd Tardy – Warning & Parent Phone Contact
- C. 3rd Tardy – Non-TRS RPC
- D. 4th Tardy – After School Detention
- E. 5th Tardy – In-House Suspension (IHS)
- F. 6th Tardy – Required Parent Conference – RPC/Tardy Contract
- G. 7th Tardy – IHS/parent and student meet with the principal

IX. **BEHAVIOR- Progressive Discipline**

- A. 1st Incident – Verbal warning
- B. 2nd Incident - Parent contact by teacher
- C. 3rd Incident – Written contact to parent
- D. 4th Incident – Counselor referral
- E. 5th Incident – Deans’ referral

X. **Supplies needed for this course**

- A. One subject notebook or composition notebook
- B. Writing Utensil: black/blue pen and pencil.

XI. **Utilizing technology to learn** – At Leavitt, we want to encourage the daily use of technology in and out of the classroom to further enhance the educational experience. As such, Leavitt will be providing students with individual devices in all grades to utilize in class and at home. Students will also be provided with a Google email address to correspond with their teacher and classmates on projects, as well as to turn in assignments. Students may choose to utilize their own electronic tablets (iPads, Kindle Fire, Samsung, etc.) cell phones, laptops, and reading devices for educational purposes. Please be reminded that your student is responsible for the safety of their personal device and must utilize the district’s Wifi to ensure their internet safety. All use of these devices will be for educational purposes and must be approved by the individual teacher.

XII. **Teacher’s Hours of Availability**

- A. Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 8:55 a.m. (by appointment)
- B. Parents may contact me via:
  - 1. Email – [lawsosj@nv.ccsd.net](mailto:lawsosj@nv.ccsd.net)

2. Leavitt Middle School Website – [www.leavittms.net](http://www.leavittms.net)
3. Leavitt Middle School – 702.799.4699