

Course Description: This one year course is designed to integrate science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and core ideas from the life sciences, Earth and space sciences, and the physical sciences. The topics covered in Science 7 include Structure and Properties of Matter; Chemical Reactions; Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems; History of Earth; Human Impact; and Engineering Design. Demonstration and lab experiences that employ proper safety techniques are essential to this course. The **APPROPRIATE** use of technology is an **INTEGRAL** part of this course. This course fulfills the seventh grade science requirement.

I. Course Content and Time Schedule

Quarter 1 - Matter and Chemical Reactions

Goals: 1. To conduct investigations showing how matter interacts at the atomic and molecular scales

emphasizing the evidence of chemical reactions and the law of conservation of mass

2. To implement the design process to investigate the release or absorption of thermal energy during chemical reactions.

Quarter 2 - Matter and Energy in Ecosystems. Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystem.

Goals: 1. To develop and use models that show how matter and energy are cycled within an ecosystem through the process of photosynthesis and cellular respiration.

2. To explain resource availability, changes in the environment, and interactions among organisms affect populations in predictable patterns

Quarter 3 - Earth's Resources

Goals: 1. To model the cyclical flow of energy and matter involved in the formation of rocks and minerals

2. To explain how an uneven distribution of natural resources and human consumption patterns impact society and Earth's systems.

Quarter 4 - Our Dynamic Earth

Goals: 1. To examine geological evidence explaining how the Earth has changed throughout history using varying time and spatial scales

2. To examine existing data of natural hazards to forecast catastrophic events and understand the development of new technologies can mitigate their effects.

II. 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.

III. 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

IV. Behavior - Progressive Discipline

- a. 1st Incident – Verbal warning
 - b. 2nd Incident – Parent contact by teacher
- c. 3rd Incident – Counselor referral
 - d. 4th Incident – Deans' referral

V. Course Activities

- a. Investigations / Labs / Activities / Assessments
- b. Readings / Discussions / Notes
- c. Project / Presentations

VI. Evaluation

- a. Criteria for arriving at students grades
 - Accelerated Science
 - i. Class Assignments - 20%
 - ii. Lab Write Up / Assessments / Activities - 80%
 - Science 7
 - i. Class Assignments - 30%
 - ii. Lab Write Up / Assessments / Activities - 70%
- b. Semester exams will be worth 20% of the SEMESTER grade.
 - i. Semester exams will not be administered early. Students who are absent may make up their exams on the district approved make-up day.
- c. Grading Scale
 - i. A 100 – 90%
 - ii. B 89 – 80%
 - iii. C 79 – 70%
 - iv. D 69 – 60%
 - v. F 59 and below
- d. How and When Students will be Advised of Their Grades
 - i. Parents and students are urged to check the Infinite Campus Portal on our website **regularly**.
 - ii. Progress reports will be issued at mid-quarter
- e. Late work / Absent work policy
- i. Teachers shall provide an opportunity for a student to make up missed work due to any absence, and students shall be held accountable for the work. When a student is absent, however, the educational experiences lost during that absence might be irretrievable because the instruction and interaction in the instructional setting cannot be duplicated through makeup work.
- ii. After any absence, a secondary student is **required to initiate** contact with the teacher(s) to obtain appropriate makeup work **within three** school days immediately following the absence. Once contact has been made with the teacher(s), specific makeup work must be completed and returned to the teacher(s) within a **reasonable length of time, to be determined by the teacher** and communicated to the student/parent or legal guardian. The makeup work must be returned to the teacher(s) by the specified due date if it is to be acknowledged. **Students shall be allowed a minimum of three (3) days to complete makeup work.**

- iii. Students are responsible for coming to the teacher AFTER checking Canvas.ccsd.net. Teacher is always understanding with work when students are absent expects students to take charge of their education.
- iv. Work that was assigned before student was absent is still due at the same time or when the student returns. No extra days are given if they are absent and work has already been assigned.
- v. District Policy: https://www.ccsd.net/district/policies-regulations/pdf/5113_R.pdf
- vi. Late work will be docked points off unless student has been absent and they get work in within the required time period. The policy will be as follows:
 - a. Late work may be docked 10%-50% depending on when it was turned in.
 - b. Late assignments may not be turned in after 10 days.
 - c. Please keep in mind late projects are **not** accepted.

f. 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 further mastery of the subject matter.
3. The better score will be used first semester. Second semester the original score and the retake will be averaged.

VII. Citizenship *is not* linked to academic achievement

Citizenship/behavior expectations: Students are expected to adhere to the tenets of the Patriot Pact. When students struggle, they will be held accountable using progressive discipline. This may include verbal warnings, lunch detentions, after school detentions, calls home, and referrals to the dean's office.

On report cards, this is what each citizenship category represents:

OUTSTANDING

- Demonstrates self-control
- Follows directions the first time given; comes to class with proper supplies; listens attentively; ready to start on time.
- Works hard, takes initiative; asks for help when needed
- Does not disrupt class or cause distractions
- Frequently goes out of way to help other students
- Actively participates in class discussions

SATISFACTORY

- Frequently demonstrates self-control
- Follows directions; comes to class with proper supplies; good listener; frequently asks for help when needed
- Hardly ever disrupts the class
- Demonstrates a willingness to help other students
- Frequently participates in class discussions

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

- Usually pays attention in class, often distracts or is distracting to other students
- Seldom follows directions the first time given; often unprepared; listens inconsistently
- Stops distracting others only when reminded repeatedly
- Rarely participates in class discussions

UNSATISFACTORY

- Rarely pays attention in class; often distracted or is distracting others
- Does not follow directions; seldom prepared with materials or work; does not listen to adult

directions or advice

- Must be personally reminded to focus on classroom activities; seldom asks for help relevant to classroom tasks
- Rarely appears engaged in learning
- Visits the dean due to serious, inappropriate classroom behavior

Citizenship is taken very seriously here at Leavitt Middle School. Teachers expect the very best from their students every day. Students are responsible for following all District, School-Wide Rules, Leavitt's "Patriot Pact Principles," and Acceptable Use Policy computer network rules. Additionally, students are expected to bring supplies to class, pay attention, stay on task, talk when appropriate, be respectful to all teachers and students, avoid nuisance items (such as cell phones, iPod, etc), and **not chew gum**. Students who cannot work within these expectations will have points deducted from their citizenship grades. Other actions which disrupt the learning environment of the classroom or other students will also be documented and points will be lost.

Phone/Tablet Rules

- Students are not allowed to have their phone or tablet out without permission. If the student does not follow this rule, it will be confiscated until the end of the day. If it continues to be a problem the device will be confiscated, taken to the office and a parent or guardian will need to come to school to get it.
- If a student's phone or tablet disrupts the classroom in any way (vibration or sounds) the device will be confiscated until the end of the day. If it continues to be a problem the device will be taken to the office and a parent or guardian will have to come and get it.

PLEASE NOTE: All work that is done in this class is important and has a purpose. In order to be able to participate and be successful in labs and activities, all students are required to complete all of the background work leading up to the labs and activities. Students are expected to do their best at all times and complete all assignments.

Periodic Quizzes will be given to be sure students are keeping up with their daily

VIII. Supplies Needed Daily for this Course

- a. A spiral notebook or a composition notebook used for notes and science activities
 - b. Pencil and paper
 - c. Colored pencils
- (markers, scissors, glue, ruler; all can be kept at home. When needed in class these items will be provided.)

There will be times we will be asking for donations to complete projects in class. If you are able to donate these supplies to the classroom it is greatly appreciated.

IX. Utilizing technology to learn

This year, 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. We will use Canvas.ccsd.net as a method to deliver information as well as 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.

X. Teacher's Hours of Availability

- a. Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 8:55 a.m. (by appointment)
- b. Monday through Thursday 3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. (by appointment)
- c. Parents may contact me via:
 - i. **Email – etteral@nv.ccsd.net**
 - ii. Leavitt Middle School Website – www.leavittms.net
 - iii. Leavitt Middle School – 702.799.4699