

Course Description: This one year course is designed to integrate science and engineering practices, crosscutting
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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 per Dean’s Office

- 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. Projects / Presentations

VI. Evaluation

a. Criteria for arriving at students grades

- i. Class Assignments / Homework - 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. Explanation of Student Grades

- 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
- iii. Students may ask the teacher about/for their grade throughout the grading period.

e. Late work / Absent work policy

i. Late work will not be accepted except for the following two (2) reasons:

- a. The student has a current approved CCSD document (For example: IEP or 504) that specifically indicates they are given extra time on assignments
- b. The legal guardian/parent of the students has pre-arranged with the teacher for the work to be made up.

ii. If there is an absence, the *student* is responsible to collect the assignment, complete it on his or her own time (before/after school), and return it within 3 days from absence. If the student fails to turn in the assignment in after three (3) school days from the absence the Late work policy will be followed.

f. Test Retake policy

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

- ii. Upon completion of the retake, the *student* **MUST** inform the teacher so the new, improved grade can replace the former, poor grade.

VII. Citizenship *is not* linked to academic achievement

- a. The “O” grade is held in very high esteem by students and parents alike; thus, it should be neither awarded nor withheld lightly. The “O” carries with it possible nominations for all students to the Junior Honor Society and for various school awards and/or privileges.
- b. *Leadership* is a definite factor in the awarding of an “O.” Leadership can be overt, by accepting active leadership roles in class or school organizations, or it may be covert, by leading by example or dedication. Excellent citizens may also be enthusiastic followers.
- c. To establish as much uniformity as possible in the awarding of citizenship grades, the following criteria should be applied: Movement in the class is appropriate for the activity at hand; Student will act respectfully toward the teacher and other students; Student will obey class and school rules.
- d. A few lapses in the behavior may result in a student receiving a grade of “S.”

- e. Occasional lapses in the behavior may result in a student receiving a grade of “N.”
- f. A grade of “U” may be given if identified student misbehavior continues, but only if parent contact, specifically regarding the behavior, and/or a dean’s referral has been made. The “U” grade is cumulative and is not to be awarded for a single spectacular outburst.

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.

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.

VIII. Supplies Needed for this Course

- a. A spiral notebook or a composition notebook used for notes and science activities
- b. Pencil (or pen)
- c. Pocket Folder

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.

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. Parents may contact me via:
 - i. **Email – lawsosj@nv.ccsd.net**
 - ii. Leavitt Middle School Website – www.leavittms.net
 - iii. Leavitt Middle School – 702.799.4699