**Course Syllabus – Science 8 - Mr. Hetcher**

**TAKE THIS HOME AND SHARE IT WITH YOUR PARENTS**

**Overview:**

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| Welcome to Science 8. This syllabus will describe the course and serve as a reference for students and parents. |

I am looking forward to an exciting and rewarding year in Science. Every student can do well in this class and it is my goal that we all work together to make sure that happens. If there are any questions, feel free to contact me at school at 725-5116 ext. 166 or by e-mail at [jhetcher@cassvillesd.k12.wi.us](mailto:jhetcher@cassvillesd.k12.wi.us) . Classroom information is available on my website, [mrhetcher.weebly.com](http://mrhetcher.weebly.com) or follow the link at [cassvillesd.k12.wi.us](http://www.cassvillesd.k12.wi.us) .

**Expectations:**

This outline is intended to clarify what I expect from the students and what they can expect from me. Several policies regarding labs, makeup work and tardiness are posted in the room and the following are the rules in effect at all times in the classroom:

* follow directions the first time given
* bring all materials to class every day
* respect other people’s right to talk
* follow all lab safety guidelines

We will spend several days at the beginning of the course discussing laboratory procedures and safety guidelines. Students are required to pass a safety quiz and return a signed safety contract before participating in laboratory activities.

As the teacher, I will be responsible for monitoring and recording student behavior. Please be aware there are many more procedures we will follow during the year.

**Grading:**

The quarter grade will be based on the total points earned on the quizzes, tests, and daily understanding checks (DUC). Each quarter will cover approximately two units and each unit will have about two or three quizzes. Each quiz is worth 100 points. The tests are worth 200 points, but sometimes students who score highly on the unit quizzes provide evidence of mastery and are exempted from taking the test. The DUC is between one and five questions that are designed to assess whether the student met the learning target for the day. Each question is worth one point. Completed homework assignments earn 5 points. Incomplete or missing assignments earn zero points.

Late work is not accepted.

The semester grade will be the average of the two quarter grades.

The district approved grading scale will be used.

**Homework Policy:**

Homework is assigned because it reinforces skills and materials learned in class and it prepares students for upcoming tests and quizzes. There are some questions in the homework assignments that are very similar to the questions on the quizzes and tests. Students have to do the assignments as in order to be able to be successful on the quizzes and tests.

The DUC will help the students determine whether they need a lot of practice and also should give them a reason to be attentive during the class period.

Homework will be graded based upon whether it is completed or not. Doing homework and labs are part of the learning process and students need to do them, but they do not represent the final outcome. (What was the score of the Super Bowl at half time? Who cares?) Questions from homework and labs will be on quizzes and tests.

Electronic Communication/Media Devices: These devices may be used in the room for valid instructional reasons. Examples include using an iPod as a stopwatch or camera in the lab, or a calculator, or a way to access the internet in class when the instructor decides it is appropriate. Listening to music is not acceptable.

**Course Content:**

During this school year we will investigate the following concepts:

First Semester Second Semester

lab safety motion

Matter and change forces

scientific measurement forces in fluids

atomic structure machines

chemical names and formulas energy, work, and power

ions and compounds electricity and magnetism

chemical reactions

**Materials:** Students will be required to bring their Science book, a dedicated Science notebook, and a writing instrument every day.

**Schedule:**Class meets every day.

It is very important for students to have good attendance.