

Goal Statement

The world around us continues to become more and more technologically advanced. Even though all of you are not destined to become professional scientists or engineers, it is important that all of you become scientifically literate. This includes understanding the terminology and concepts that are involved in science as well as developing a scientific way of thinking. Scientific literacy will help you to appreciate the basic laws of nature that govern the world around us, as well as understand our changing environment. Our goal in 8th grade science is to improve your science literacy.

Intermediate Level Science Exam

Students will take a state exam in the 8th grade to measure how well they have reached our goal. The exam will assess the student's science performance skills as well as, their understanding of the basic concepts of biology, chemistry, physics, and earth science. The scores of the exam will be used to identify the students in need of intervention services in high school. It is important that all students do well on the exam.

To help students prepare for the exam, the *Measure Up* review book used in seventh grade will again be used in class. There will be a class set of review books for the students to use throughout the year. However, if you wish to purchase your own, they can be purchased through the school store.

Behavior Policy

Every student has the ability and the right to learn. In order for meaningful learning to occur, we must have a safe, distraction-free environment. It is the responsibility of both the students and Ms. Barber to make sure that we have this type of classroom. Therefore, each student will show respect for themselves and the others in the classroom as well as use orderly conduct in the classroom.

The rules and regulations outlined in the Greenwich Student Handbook will be enforced not only in the classroom but in the hallways as well. Any violation of the Code of Conduct will result in the consequences outlined in the Student Handbook.

Absence from Class

If a student is absent from class, he/she should make it a point to see Ms. Barber in regard to information and assignments missed during the absence. The student is still responsible to turn in any missed work.

Homework

All work should be handed in on time. If any work is late, students may still have in the work for partial credit. If a student is missing two or more assignments, they will be asked to stay after school with Ms. Barber to make up the work. The grading policy for the Greenwich CSD Science Department is as follows

- Collected Assignments: 1 day late -10%,
2 or more days late -50%,
More than 5 weeks late 0
- Checked/Non-Collected Assignments: late=0
- Major Projects: each day late= -10%

Grading Policy

A point system will be used to calculate grades. Students will gain points for every test, project, quiz, and homework assignment. Grades are calculated using the following rubric

Tests/Quizzes	40%
Labs	30%
Homework	20%
<u>Notebook Check</u>	<u>10%</u>
Overall average	100%

Pre-Class and Post-Class Questions

Each week students will receive a *Class Questions Sheet* to keep in their class bin. These questions will be asked at the beginning or the end of class to reinforce new class material. Students are responsible to copy down the question in addition to answering the question correctly. At the end of each week, the questions will be graded. At the end of the school year, these sheets become a great study guide to prepare for the Intermediate Level Science Exam.



Portfolio/Binder

Binders will be divided into 3 sections, Tests/Quizzes, Homework/Labs, and Notes/Hand-outs. Each section should be kept in chronological order. At the end of each quarter, binders will be collected and graded. The binder grade will make up 10% of the quarter average. The binders will be graded on organization and content.

Materials

Students need the following materials for science class:

1. 2½ inch 3-ring binder
2. 3 dividers for the binder
3. Measuring Up! Review Book
4. PENCILS!!!

Extra Credit

Throughout the course of the school year, there will be many different options available to receive extra credit. Students are encouraged to hand in extra credit assignments, but they are not mandatory. If a student wishes to create his or her own extra credit assignment, please see Ms. Barber for approval.

Extra Help

Ms. Barber is available for extra help most nights after school. Feel free to stay any night for extra help. There will also be review sessions after school before any test. For addition information about Science 8 or links to helpful website pertaining to this course, please go the Greenwich CSD website and click on Ms. Barber's website.

If you need to contact Ms. Barber outside of school, feel free to send an email at cbarber@greenwichcsd.org or contact the school to leave a voice mail at 692-9542.

Units Studied in Science This Year

September- Scientific Method and Measurement

October/November- Chemistry

November/December- Forces and Motion, Work/Power, Simple Machines

January/February- Energy- Thermal, Electricity/Magnetism, Light/Sound

March- Astronomy

April/May- Earth Science

May/June- Review to prepare for NYS Science 8 exam

8th Grade



Science

**Ms. Barber
Room 312
2012-2013**