

St. Clare School Science

Grades 6 - 8

The science curriculum includes earth, life and physical science. Depending on the grade level, there is an emphasis on one of these topics in each of the middle school grades. The students will continue using the Scientific Method as they learn through hands-on experiences and discussions. In addition, enrichment activities will be available for those students who would like to further explore a concept.

Science Fair

The Science Fair is scheduled to be held the second week of February, 2012. Participation is mandatory for the 6th - 8th grades. Students in grade 6 may complete a project with a partner. The majority of the science fair project is the research and data collection based on the question and hypothesis formulated by the student. It is important that the students gain an understanding of the control and variable(s) present in their experiment. More information on the science will be sent out at the beginning of the second tri-mester.

Homework/Assignments

Students may access homework and class information through the science link on the St. Clare School website. It is the students' responsibility to write down any assignments in their planner before they leave class. **Students are to bring completed assignments to class either "typed" or neatly handwritten on paper, on the day they are due.** Homework will be considered late if it is not turned in by the due date. Late homework assignments will be accepted up to four days after they are due for 50% credit. Upon returning from being absent, students will be given time to make-up assignments. Students who miss lab days will be expected to complete an alternative assignment. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all make-up work and tests/quizzes are completed in a timely manner.

Grading

Students will earn their grades based on the following:

Tests and Projects	50%
Quizzes and Formal Lab Write-ups	25%
Classwork and Lab Activities	15%
Homework	10%

Curriculum

6th Grade Earth Science

Students will be learning all about the Earth; how the Earth was formed, mapping the Earth and how and why it trembles and shakes sometimes. The students will also learn about the dynamic changes to our Earth's surface, which corresponds to the curriculum they are presented in science camp. Students will also be using the internet through the USGS (United States Geological Society) to map earthquake activity.

7th Grade Life Science

This year we will be studying Life Science - the study of living things. We will explore the basic units of life: cells, to human body systems including genetics and evolution. We will also study the ecosystems of living things and how we can protect them from harm. Our unit on Ecology will explore practical ways we can help preserve our own environment.

8th Grade Physical Science

The students will investigate the structure of matter, the forces of motion along with chemical compounds, mixtures and reactions. We will also explore the Periodic Table of Elements. Their knowledge of the Scientific Method of inquiry will be used extensively in our hands-on investigations in Physics and Chemistry.

Thank you again for your support. Should you need to contact me please e-mail me at cmartinez@stclareschool.org or leave a message at 246-6797.

**In Christ's Peace,
Mrs. Cici Martinez**