

7th & 8th Grade Science
Homework & Grading Policy
Mr. Faber

In science class, homework is very important to each student's learning. Homework sometimes is required to reinforce what was done in class or it may be required to prepare students for the next day's lesson. Nightly homework might be a worksheet, or a reading assignment with accompanying note taking or graphic organizer, and other times it might be a review assignment, or even simply studying for quizzes and tests. It also includes longer-term projects and reports, as well as lab assignments including experiments and lab reports.

Nightly homework is usually assigned four times per week, on average. Homework is not regularly given on weekends (or vacations), but sometimes students will need to do science work on weekends or vacations due to either long-term projects or when an individual might be behind and need to catch up. Also, an assignment given on a Wednesday and due on Monday, for example, is not necessarily considered weekend homework, unless the student chooses to do it on the weekend.

Typical nightly homework assignments take fifteen to thirty minutes, on average. However, some assignments can take less or more time, depending on the individual student, the type of assignment, whether or not they started it in school, or whether or not they are reaching for a satisfactory grade or an outstanding grade! In any case, I do tell students that they need not spend more than forty minutes on any given assignment, even if they do not finish it for the next day. They can finish it the next night if needed, so that they can get the full credit for it.

Homework accounts for about one-third to one-half of the science grade, varying somewhat from one marking period to another. If you consider projects and reports (including lab reports) as homework, this number is at the high end of that range. However, quizzes, tests, and quests (bigger than a quiz, smaller than a test); as well as their notebook and folder grades, participation and conduct grades, and even extra credit, all combine to determine their overall grade for each marking period.

Grades are not given by the teacher, but earned by the student. The grade book is more of a scorebook - a record - of how they are doing. And students can always see how they are progressing in science. They are strongly encouraged to monitor their own progress, and to keep track of what assignments they have completed and not completed, for any reason including absence. Now in 7th and 8th grades, they should become accountable for their progress, remembering to get any work they might have missed, to make it up in a timely fashion, and to get that completed work to the teacher on their own.