



Chandler Unified School District

SCI810A Gifted Science 8

SY 2023-24



Course Overview

Course Description

This course provides an interdisciplinary approach to the topics covered in Integrated Science 8 by focusing on design thinking and problem-based learning. Topics include the chemical basis of life, structures, and functions of life, the diversity of living things, and the connection of matter, energy, and living things. Students will explore science concepts using an inquiry-based approach emphasizing the development and use of models, obtaining and evaluating information, constructing explanations, communicating information, and supporting arguments based on evidence.

AP/IB/Dual Enrollment

No

Prerequisite/Fee(s)

None

Course Materials

Science Specific:

1 Notebook

1 Pocket Folder

Additional items to use in all core classes:

Charged Chromebook (provided by SJHS)

Mechanical pencils

2 packages notebook paper (place some in binder and keep the rest at home for refills)

Multi-colored highlighters

Blue/black pens

Ruler

Colored pencils

Markers

Glue stick

Dry erase markers

Scissors

Pencil case/pouch

Water bottle

Adopted Resource(s)

HMH Science Dimensions

**An asterisk will indicate a resource containing sexually explicit materials per legislative definitions. CUSD has determined that all resources listed above are of exceptional educational value.*

Site and Faculty Information

School name and address:

Santan Junior High School, 1550 E Chandler Heights Rd, Chandler, AZ 85249

Building principal:

Maryann Rezzonico

rezzonico.maryann@cusd80.com

Teacher:

Rich Pysher B.A., M.Ed

pysher.richard@cusd80.com

Office hours: Fridays 8:15 AM - 8:50 AM

Course Access

This course is taught in-person at Santan Junior High School. Students will have access to the curriculum and instruction in the classroom. Google Classroom is the primary location for students to access material when absent from classes taught in person.

Help

Academic Support

- Contact the teacher to schedule an appointment during office hours
- [Ed Tech](#) support for students, parents/guardians, and community link (cusd80.com/Page/45109)

Mental Health Support

- CUSD mental health support cusd80.com/Domain/10528 or 480-573-8808 (talk or text)
- Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: 9-8-8 hotline
- 24-hour Crisis Line Talk: 602-222-9444, Text: 741-741

Student Conduct, Success, and Responsibilities

Student Handbook

Students must follow the policies and procedures established in the Student Handbook. Copies of the handbook can be found at cusd80.com/handbooks. Printed copies will be provided upon request.

Student Responsibilities

To be successful:

Come to class prepared

Participate in class discussions and assignments

Put forth your best effort

Treat others with respect

Make smart choices

Late work

Assignments turned in 1-5 days late: 20% reduction from grade earned.

Assignments turned in 6 or more days late: 50% reduction from grade earned.

Assessments and Assignments

Students will complete assessments during each unit of study to assess their understanding. Students will complete the CUSD Common Final at the end of the first and second semesters. The Common Final will count for 20% of the student's final semester grade in grades 9-12 and 10% in grades 7-8 (some exceptions may apply at the Junior High level). Common finals will be in ELA, Math, Science, Social Science, and World Language.

Final exams will be given during the CUSD Jr High/High School Early Dismissal days in December and May, as identified on the [District Calendar](#).

If students are requested to participate in a survey, the survey questions will be provided to parents/guardians seven days before student contact.

Grading

Grade Percentage

A	B	C	D	F
90% - 100%	80% - 89%	70% - 79%	60% - 69%	<60%

Quarter grades

Students quarter grades are based on a percentage of total points earned across all categories (warmups, notes, projects, labs, and assessments).

Semester grades

Semester grades are calculated using 45/45/10: Each quarter accounts for 45% of the semester grade and the final exam accounts for the remaining 10%.

Units of study

Units for SCI810A Gifted Science 8

Scientific Method

Metric System

Properties of Matter

Atomic Elements

Molecules and Extended Structures

Chemical Reactions/Chemical Equations

Levels of Organization in Organisms

Characteristics of Cells/Cell Structure and Function

Homeostasis

Photosynthesis

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Parent/Guardian

Acknowledgment

Parents/Guardians should indicate if they "Acknowledge" or have a "Potential Conflict" with their student's participation in the following units by checking the appropriate box for each unit of study listed. Students cannot opt out of a standards-based unit. Marking "Potential Conflict" will prompt the teacher to make contact regarding assignment alternatives.

Unit of study	Acknowledge	Potential Conflict
Scientific Method	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metric System	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Properties of Matter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Atomic Elements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Molecules and Extended Structures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chemical Reactions/Chemical Equations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Levels of Organization in Organisms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Characteristics of Cells/Cell Structure and Function	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homeostasis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photosynthesis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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By signing and returning this form, the parent/guardian acknowledges they have reviewed the resources and units of the study included in the syllabus.

- As the parent/guardian, I understand that I may contact the teacher if I have questions about the resources, content, or units of study.
- As the parent/guardian, I understand I can check my student's grades in Infinite Campus anytime during the school year.

Student name (printed) _____

Student signature _____

Parent/Guardian name (printed) _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Please return this page to your student's teacher.