

**Ms. Pugliese's 5th-8th Grade
Science Policies and Procedures
2025-2026**

I am excited to start the new school year with all of you! There are various fields of science that require different methods and approaches, so we will explore them in many ways. We will be using a variety of textbooks, workbooks, and instructional materials to become proficient in science content. Get ready to learn a lot this year!

Classroom Expectations:

Students are expected to come to class prepared each day with completed homework assignments, books, and necessary supplies. They should also maintain a clean and well-organized workspace in the classroom. Books and other materials belonging to St. John's should also be maintained and returned in good condition.

When students arrive in the classroom, they should take their seats and independently and quietly complete the warm-up activity. If there is no warm-up activity scheduled for the day, students should quietly open their books and be ready to begin.

When leaving the classroom, students should dispose of any trash and push in their chairs. They should then line up quietly at the door and wait to be dismissed to their next class. Students are always expected to be respectful to all classmates and teachers.

Please note: Water bottles are not permitted in the science room, except on gym days. On those days, bottles must be placed on the bookshelf.

*Any lost or damaged materials belonging to St. John's will be subject to an additional fee.

* Three instances of being unprepared will result in a lunch detention.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on various forms of assessment, including tests, quizzes, labs, projects, exit slips, and homework. Class participation will also contribute to the overall grade. I may grade any assignment without prior notification. Therefore, students should always come to class with completed tasks as if they were to be graded. Late work will be penalized.

Grades will be calculated according to the following percentages:

Category	Percentage
Unit Tests	30%
Quizzes	20%
Lab/Projects	20%
Classwork/Homework	20%
Class Participation	10%

*Extra credit will be offered to students who ask, provided they have minimal missing homework and act appropriately during class.

Homework:

Homework will be assigned regularly. Students are responsible for writing homework assignments in their planners. Homework will **not** be posted on Grade Book Wizard. Each missing homework will result in a 5-point deduction from their homework grade. If made up by the following day, students will receive partial credit for the assignment. Students who do not submit homework and other class assignments within one week will receive a grade of zero for that assignment. Students will **not** be allowed to turn in bulk work at the end of the term.

Please note: Clicking “Turn In” for assignments on Google Classroom without completing/attaching the assignment sends a blank document. This will be counted as a missing assignment unless resubmitted promptly.

*Three missing homework assignments will result in a lunch detention.

Scientist of the Month Report (100 pts.):

Each month, students will be researching one scientist that has made a significant contribution to our world. The scientist will be from the branch of science that reflects the current unit of study. Reports are to be handwritten in the science notebooks.

These reports will be due the last school day of each month. Late reports will NOT be accepted, as the student has a full month to complete the assignment.

Students will answer the following questions in their notebook:

1. Name of scientist
2. Field of science (ex: biology, chemistry, geology, etc.)
3. Where is the scientist from?
4. What is the scientist’s date of birth and date of death? Write “to present” if this scientist is still living.
5. Did this scientist receive a formal education? If so, where? If not, what type of informal education or training (such as an apprenticeship) did they receive?
6. What contributions did the scientist make to their field, and why were these contributions important at the time?
7. What impact did these contributions have on science or society?
8. Did the scientist earn any prizes or awards for their work?
9. What is the lasting effect their work had on the world?
10. In your opinion, why is the scientist’s work significant or interesting?

All sources must be listed. Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment. Using AI tools without verifying their accuracy and demonstrating a personal understanding of the material will result in a zero.

Laboratory Investigations:

Students will also have the opportunity to apply what they have learned through various lab investigations and activities, which will be fun and highly engaging. Each grade will have a 90-minute lab period once per week. All students participating in the labs are required to follow safety rules and guidelines. We will discuss these expectations during our first lab period. The lab safety rules will be written in the science notebook.

Each lab will have a pre-lab worksheet assigned either for homework before lab day or at the beginning of class on lab day. This worksheet will count as 20% of that week's lab grade. It cannot be made up, as its purpose is to equip students with insights, hypotheses, and safety precautions before they participate in the lab.

A 10% protocol grade will also be included. Points will be deducted if safety rules and guidelines are not followed. Major infractions such as destruction of school property or disrespectful behavior towards lab partners and/or the teacher will result in removal from the lab activity and a zero for that lab grade.

*Missed labs may result in an alternate assignment.

Absences:

A student will be able to make up missed assignments without penalty if an absence note is provided upon the student's return to school. It is the student's responsibility to make up any assignments or tests missed due to an absence. Missed exams must be made up within one week. If a student does not take personal responsibility to make up tests, labs, and warm-up/exit slips within one week, he or she will receive a zero for that grade. Please make sure all missed work is addressed outside of class (preferably before class, during homeroom, or via Grade Book Wizard).

Technology:

Chromebooks and other forms of technology are used frequently in the classroom. They are used as tools to assist in learning. Students are expected to use them properly and only as directed by the teacher. Students must avoid using non-academic websites and games during class. Using school technology for personal use during school will result in the loss of computer privileges for the academic quarter and may result in other disciplinary action. Please review the school's Internet Safety Agreement for further details.

Remember, I'm here to make sure that everyone has a successful year! If you have any questions or concerns about the requirements, policies, or your student's progress in class, please contact me via Grade Book Wizard at any time. If a situation requires more than a quick email, you may leave me a message with the school office. To ensure we have sufficient time, all meetings must be scheduled in advance.

Sincerely,
Ms. Pugliese