

Welcome to the Intermediate Science Program at MDJH

Course Descriptors

Please see the Course Descriptors for each grade level available as separate documents for a list of units covered and the mark distribution. Each unit is weighted proportionately with the amount of instructional time allotted, with a final exam in June covering all four units, worth 10% in grade 7, 15% in grade 8, and 20% in grade 9. Within each unit, the marks will be evenly split between tests/quizzes, and performance assessments such as labs and projects.

Science Fair Projects

At MDJH we have a long and proud tradition of promoting hands-on science through our school Science Fair. All grade 7 students are required to complete a science Fair project, individually or with a partner, worth about 10% of their science mark. Their mark for this project will be integrated into the performance assessment portion of the mark for each unit. Grade 8 and 9 students have the option of presenting a project at the MDJH school Science Fair for extra credit if they so wish.

Grade 7 Science Fair projects will be started in January and due at the end of February. Grade 7 students will present their project in class, and are invited to present it at the School Science Fair in mid-March. Grade 8 and 9 students who challenge themselves to complete a Science Fair project can proceed more autonomously and at their own pace. They simply need to present their completed project at the school Science Fair to earn the extra credit.

In order to support students in all grades with their project, the Science Department will once again be offering Science Project Help at lunchtime during January and February.

Finally, the MDJH Science Fair is asking once again for judges. If you have a background in science and enjoy talking science with young people, we want you! Please contact our Science Department Head Nathalie Brunet at nathaliebrunet@nlesd.ca.

Other Science-Related Activities

Our department offers many opportunities for students to explore science in curricular and co-curricular activities, including

- Grade 7 classes will have a field trip to the Oxen Pond Botanical Garden in the fall to take part in an Ecosystems program
- Grade 8 classes will have a field trip to the Fluvarium to study water quality through the "Who Killed Fred the Fish" program.
- Selected classes may also have the opportunity to go to the Brother Brennan Environmental Education Centre, depending on availability of teachers to accompany them.

- All science students are invited to a Sky Gazing event in the soccer field in front of the school on the evening of October 16 (weather permitting).
- Lego Robotics team, lead by teachers Phil Smith and Caleb Thorne.
- ROV team, also lead by teachers Phil Smith and Caleb Thorne
- Let's Talk Science teams lead by teachers Nathalie Brunet and Jennifer Riggs.

Communications

- **Contact information for science teachers:** listed on the MDJH website.
- **Homework page on the MDJH website:** to find out your child's homework assignments or to find out what we did in class if your child was absent.
- **Websites of science teachers:** please look for your child's science teacher's website to access notes and other materials posted.
- **PowerSchool:** Students' marks will be posted as work is corrected. If you don't have a PowerSchool password or need it reset, please ask the office for assistance. If you have any concern about marks posted, do not hesitate to contact your child's science teacher.

MDJH Science Department Procedures for Missed or Late Assessments

In science courses, we have three broad types of assessments.

1. Quizzes and tests
2. Lab activities and in-class assignments
3. Take home assignments

Here are the procedures we will follow in each case.

Quizzes and Tests

For each unit in the science program, there are usually two chapter quizzes and one unit test at the end of the third chapter. These are announced at least five days in advance for a quiz and a full week for a test. The announcement is made in class and also on the [homework page](#), and we hand out review materials to students. All students are expected to write their quiz/test on the set date, so students who would normally take part in a pull-out co-curricular activity like band or choir will stay with their class for assessments.

If a student is absent from school on the day of a quiz or test, in accordance with the MDJH policy we ask that you contact the subject teacher directly. The science teacher will then get back to you with an alternate date for the student to write the assessment, usually on the first science period after their return to school. If we have not received from you notice of a valid reason for the absence, the teacher will enter a "placeholder" mark of 0 in PowerSchool

and make contact with you. Please get in touch back with the reason for the absence, we will set an alternate date for the student to write and the 0 will be replaced by the proper mark.

Lab Activities and In-Class Assignments.

Lab activities are an essential part of learning science. Given their nature, they cannot easily be made up at a later time if a student was absent, or does not participate appropriately when given the opportunity.

1. Students generally complete lab activities in school, in small groups and pass in their work at the end of the period. All students are expected to do their best to participate with their group, then usually are responsible for their own write-up which is graded individually.
2. Any student who is absent for a valid reason is simply excused from the assignment.
3. If a student is absent unexcused, the science teacher will contact home and enter a “placeholder” mark of 0 until a valid reason has been provided, at which point the student can be excused from the assignment.
4. If a student is present for an activity but refuses to participate, or doesn’t pass in their work, the teacher will enter a mark of 0 and contact home. If the work was simply misplaced it can be passed in the next day. If the student did not do the work when they had the opportunity, then given the nature of labs there cannot be another time. The mark of 0 would then stay.
5. If a student misbehaves in the lab in a way that compromises their safety or other students', and persists in spite of reminders, they can be removed from the lab and receive a mark of 0 for that activity.
6. If this becomes a pattern and a student is at risk of not passing the course, then we would work in collaboration with home and with the administration to ensure the child is given reasonable alternate opportunities to accomplish course outcomes and have success in science.

Take Home Assignments

Most of our work is done in class, but occasionally there will be a short take-home project such as a foldable, or students may be given the opportunity to finish at home a written assignment that they did not finish in class. Grade 7 students will also complete a Science Fair project beginning in January. The time given will be proportional to the length of the project and the deadline will be announced in class and on the homework website.

The school’s policy on late or missing assignments will apply. On the due date, the teacher will collect assignments and open an entry for the task in PowerSchool. Assignments received

will be left blank until they have been corrected; any assignment not passed in will be indicated in PowerSchool with a placeholder mark of 0, and the teacher will make contact with you to make arrangements for an alternate deadline. When the assignment is received the 0 will be removed, and once it is corrected the mark will be entered. No marks will be deducted for lateness. If the assignment is not received on the extended deadline, the teacher may inform the administration and, if the student is at risk of not passing the course, we may make use of opportunities such as the recovery days to get them to complete the work under supervision. Late assignments can be accepted until the end of the reporting period in which they were due (end of January for Term 1, and June for Term 2).

Thank you for your support, as we work together to guide young people to take responsibility and accountability for their own learning,

The MDJH Science Department

Evaluation Scheme Grade 8 Science



Science 8
Course Description for September
2018
Level of Instruction: Intermediate

Curriculum Overview:

Grade 8 Science is a Pan-Canadian science course that aims to develop scientific literacy. Scientific literacy is an evolving combination of the science related attitudes, skills, and knowledge students need to develop inquiry, problem-solving, and decision-making abilities; to become lifelong learners; and to maintain a sense of wonder about the world around them.

Authorized Learning Resources:

Curriculum Guide:

<http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/curriculum/guides/science/index.html>

English

<http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/french/immersion/sciences/index.html>

French Immersion

Resource List:

http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/curriculum/documents/resourcelists/rl_science_gr8_2013.pdf

Course Sequence:

Unit (Guide)	Categories (Gradebook)	Hours of Instruction (including evaluation)	Category Weighting (Gradebook)
1	Water Systems on Earth's Surface	24 Hours	23.4%

2	Fluids	19 Hours	18.6%
3	Optics	26 Hours	25.4%
4	Cells, Tissues, Organs and Systems	18 Hours	17.6%
	Final Exam		15%

The Final Exam will be comprehensive in nature and contain content from the entire course. Weightings of assessments within each Unit Based Category can be found [here](#)