



Welcome to Jr High Science 2025/2026: Quarter 1

eclooney@cps.edu

Email me at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

The following inclusion teachers will be working with us in the science lab:

Mrs. Roche (lzroche@cps.edu)(6th)

TBD due to CPS cuts (7th)

Mrs. Reilly (acreilly@cps.edu)(8th)

Missing work? When a student is absent, there will be a missing assignments sheet in their mailbox. The student needs to make up the assignment within **two** days. After two days, points will be deducted. **Absent work is not provided to students in advance.**

Msg will show up for the assignment in ASPEN until the assignment is turned in. Msg is averaged in as a zero.

Grading Categories and Weights: Exit=5%: a short assignment that is given to conclude in-class work (**Exit work can not be made up if absent.**); Formative=60%: classwork, homework, quizzes, research, and mini-labs; Summative=35%: Exams and full project conclusions.

Gradebook codes: Msg=missing(0), Exc=excused, Inc=student still working, 0=actual grade on assignment.

Positive Incentive Program: Go for the Gold (See attachment for all junior high classes.)

Hello, and welcome to the 2025/2026 school year, and welcome to jr. high science at Cassell.

This year I will be teaching 6th - 8th grade science. I'm looking forward to an exciting, challenging year filled with many activities, labs, and engineering projects with all students.

6th: I will be introducing a new science curriculum to 6th grade, OpenSciEd. OpenSciEd materials and phenomenon rely on students collectively figuring out science ideas through productive talk which leads to experiments to test their ideas. This curriculum follows the NGSS Standards.

7th-8th grade: I'm excited to continue using a program with all science classes this year: Science Career Adventures along with a variety of current phenomenon related curriculums. These programs will not only allow the students to explore hands-on challenges but will also introduce the students to many careers in science! All curriculum for 7th and 8th grade follow NGSS Standards.

The NGSS standards that will be covered during the first quarter are....

6th, 7th & 8th: Scientific method and design process: NGSS: MS-ETS1: Engineering Design; Scientific Method: Science and Engineering Practices and science lab safety, SI unit measurement.

The students will be using the scientific method and design process while actively engaging in our middle school program: Science Career Adventures and a variety of other lessons, labs, and activities.

6th: MS-LS1-1. Conduct an investigation to provide evidence that living things are made of cells; either one cell or many different numbers and types of cells.

MS-LS1-2. Develop and use a model to describe the function of a cell as a whole and ways parts of cells contribute to the function.

CC: Cause and Effect relationships. Practices: Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions

7th:MS-LS2-2. Construct an explanation that predicts patterns of interactions among organisms across multiple ecosystems.

MS-LS1-4. Use arguments based on empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support an explanation for how characteristic animal behaviors and specialized plant structures affect the probability of successful reproduction of animals and plants respectively.

CC: Cause and Effect relationships. Practices: Patterns (Populations, adaptations, invasive species)

8th : Experimental Practices: Science Processes/Scientific Method:NGSS: 1.Asking Questions and Defining Problems; 2. Developing and Using Models; 3. Planning and Carrying Out Investigations; 4. Analyzing and Interpreting Data; 5. Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking; 6. Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions; 7. Engaging in Argument from Evidence; 8. Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information. 8th grade students: Science Fair: 8th grade students will start the year practicing measurement and the steps of the scientific method. The 8th grade science fair will be held in December.

IMPORTANT!!! Is your child interested in Cassell's Farm Club?

Email me if interested: eclooney@cps.edu

IMPORTANT! PLEASE UPDATE THE EMAIL YOU HAVE LISTED IN ASPEN. I SEND MANY MASS EMAILS TO PARENTS WITH UPDATES. THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO:) Mrs. Elaine Cloney