

# LHS Applied Science 2025–26

## Instructor

- **Mr. Paul Pack** | Room 107 | 308-324-4691 ext. 2308 | paul.pack@lexschools.org

## Course Overview

Applied Science is an entry-level, hands-on science course designed to introduce students to key scientific principles, inquiry-based learning, and preparation for the ACT. Major units include:

1. **Scientific Inquiry, the Nature of Science, and Technology**
2. **Life Science** — covering structure and function of living systems, heredity, matter and energy flow in ecosystems, and biodiversity.

## Materials Needed

- Folder labeled with name and class period
- Notebook or 3-ring binder with lined paper
- Pencils, erasers, black/blue pen, highlighter
- iPad (charged daily)
- Optional: hand sanitizer for class use
- **Textbook:** *Science: An Introduction to Life, Earth, and Physical Sciences* (Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 2003) — kept in classroom

## Course Goals

Students will:

- Conduct investigations using the scientific method
- Apply scientific reasoning to explain phenomena
- Solve real-world problems through design and experimentation
- Understand cell processes, genetics, and molecular biology
- Explore energy flow and matter cycles in ecosystems
- Learn about scientists from history and imagine themselves as future innovators
- Build life skills through lab-based learning and collaboration

## **Class Requirements**

- **Attendance:** Be present—physically and mentally
- **Attitude:** Stay positive and persistent
- **Application:** Show what you've learned by using it
- **Participation:** Take part in labs, discussions, and classwork

## **E.O.C.U.S. – How We Stay on Track in This Classroom**

### **F – Follow Directions**

Listen carefully. Ask questions if you're unsure. Start tasks promptly.

### **O – Own Your Effort**

Do your best, even when it's hard. Take responsibility for your learning.

### **C – Come Prepared**

Bring your materials, complete assignments, and be ready to learn.

### **U – Use Time Wisely**

Stay on task. Limit distractions. Make the most of your work time.

### **S – Support Each Other**

Encourage classmates. Work together and celebrate progress.

## **Behavior Expectations**

- Do your best and ask for help when you need it
- Be respectful to your peers, teachers, and environment
- Disruptive or unkind behavior will result in consequences
- Students are responsible for their actions and must be ready to rejoin the learning community after conflict

## **Grading Policy**

- **Grading Scale:** Follows LPS district scale
- **Quarter Grade Breakdown**
  - Tests – 35%
  - Projects – 35%
  - Classwork – 30%
- **Semester Grade Breakdown**
  - Q1: 45% | Q2: 45% | Final Exam: 10%
  - Q3: 45% | Q4: 45% | Final Exam: 10%

## **Late Work Policy**

- Full credit for on-time submissions
- **80%** credit if turned in within 24 hours
- **50%** credit if turned in after 48 hours
- Late Assignments are **due by 7:59 AM**. Do not wait until class period to turn them in.
- Special circumstances? **Communicate early**

## **Accountability**

- **Points may be deducted** for behavior issues, late work, or plagiarism
- **Work is graded weekly** (typically Sunday evenings). Grade checks happen **Monday during 2nd period**

## **Plagiarism & Cheating**

- Consequences align with the **Student Code of Conduct**
- Use of AI-generated work without permission = plagiarism

## **Absences**

- **You are responsible** for missed work and notes
- **Check the front desk** for handouts
- **Pre-arranged absences:** Inform the teacher and complete work in advance
  - Missed labs must be made up within **3 school days**
  - Extended trips: Complete article summaries for participation credit
- **Illness or emergencies:** Use the 2-day rule (2 days per day absent; max 5 days to complete) per the student handbook

## **Google Calendar Usage**

- Strongly recommended for tracking due dates, projects, and events
- Update weekly in class, usually Mondays

## **Classroom Guidelines**

### **1. Cellphones & Headphones (in-ear or over-ear)**

- Turn off and place in backpack on the east wall
- Visible use = confiscation until end of day
- Repeated violations: 30 minute detentions / ISS for repeat offences

### **2. Tardiness**

- Must be in the room when the bell rings; Enter quietly and start working

### **3. Restroom Use / Water Fountain Trips**

- Not allowed during instruction or labs
- Use during passing time
- Per school guidelines, only 3 passes per day will be approved

### **4. iPad Use**

- Must be **fully charged daily**
- Failure to have iPad charged results in distractions and loss of class work time

### **5. Extracurricular Activities**

- Encouraged! Participation correlates with higher grades and graduation rates

### **6. Reading Requirement**

- Carry a **library book** daily
- Silent reading time occurs between subject transitions

### **7. Classroom Entry**

- Use **Door 107** from the 100 hallway

### **8. Bell-to-Bell Learning**

- Remain on task until the bell, or teacher releases class to gather backpacks

### **9. Office Hours**

- Mr. Pack is available **7:15–7:45 AM** and **3:25–4:00 PM** most school days
- Preferred communication: **Email**; phone calls also welcome