

## **2014-2015 Middle School Science Acceleration Program Otselic Valley Central School District Science Department**

### **Traditional Pathway:**

Students in grades 5-8 begin their science investigations with age appropriate coursework that focuses on select areas of Physical Science, Earth Science and Life Science. Upon entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade, these students are integrated with 8<sup>th</sup> grade and together have alternating curriculums taught of Physical & Earth Science or Life Science. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students are required to participate in the NYS Intermediate Science Performance and Written Assessment which encompasses science content from grade 5 through grade 8.

### **New (2014-15) Accelerated Pathway:**

The O.V. C.S. and the Science Department are now offering to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, two accelerated Regents science courses which will be alternating yearly. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Regents courses are Living Environment (Biology) or Earth Science. By accelerating in science, some students will have one of their required science courses for graduation completed before entering high school.

### **What are the advantages of an accelerated science program?**

- Regents level science courses in 8<sup>th</sup> grade are designed for students that are highly motivated and excel in science and math.
- Accelerated science is not only accelerated in time but is also a more challenging course. The Regents requirements include mandatory lab labs and the assessment of the Regents Exams in June.
- Students get a “jump start” on their high school classes while in the smaller and more contained middle school environment.
- Acceleration provides a greater scheduling flexibility for college classes, electives, and courses desired in an individualized learning plan.

### **How are students selected for the accelerated program?**

All Grade 8 students interested in the accelerated program will have the opportunity the first several weeks of this school year. It is highly recommended that students review the below listed criteria and self-reflect on their abilities (attendance, assessments, and attitude) to recognize if the student can maintain the rigor and self-discipline for the regents class. This science program will also be based on the following:

- Minimum 87 average in 7<sup>th</sup> grade for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters in science.
- Minimum 87 average in 7<sup>th</sup> grade for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters in math.
- Recommendation by 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher
- Recommendation by 7<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher.
- A 95 % attendance record for 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **What are the expectations for accelerated students?**

- It is highly recommended that accelerated students maintain an 85 or higher average in science and math.
- It is important to emphasize that performance in Living Environment and Earth Science will become part of a student’s permanent record.
- Poor performance on a Regents exam in 8<sup>th</sup> grade may be detrimental.

### **Middle School Science Instructors:**

2014–2015 8th Grade Accelerated Earth Science Regents: Mrs. Carolina A. O’Connor

2014-2015 8th Grade Science (Life Science) Mrs. Patsy Graham