



*Al Retaj International School*

*"Together Towards Success"*

## Middle School Science Course Description (Academic Year 2020-2021)

The Course is aligned to **National Science Education Standards** (NSES). The use of current and emerging technologies is essential to the students to assist in improving every student's functional literacy. This includes improved communication through reading/information retrieval (the use of telecommunications), writing (word processing), organization and analysis of data (databases, spreadsheets, and graphics programs), presentation of one's ideas (presentation software), and resource management (project management software).

In most cases, the application of technology in science should remain "transparent" unless it is the actual focus of the instruction. One must expect students to "do as a scientist does" and not simply hear about science if they are truly expected to explore, explain, and apply scientific concepts, skills, and processes.

Many of the standards in the Science Standards of Learning begin with the phrase "Students will investigate and understand." This phrase was chosen to communicate the range of rigorous science skills and knowledge levels embedded in each standard. Limiting a standard to one observable behavior, such as "describe" or "explain," would have narrowed the interpretation of what was intended to be a rich, highly rigorous, and inclusive content standard.