



Ms. Smith's 8th Grade Physical Science

Canyon Lake Middle School

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Hello Parents and Guardians!

I am excited to start a new school year and pleased to have your student in my class. The 8th grade science curriculum is a year- long course focusing on the basics of physics and chemistry as outlined by the newly adopted Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). I will emphasize student involvement with hands-on investigations and, note taking, organization and study skills.

Behavior Expectations

RESPECT: Students must promote a respectful learning environment: follow directions the first time; treat teachers, classmates and room environment with courtesy;

RESPONSIBILITY: Students must keep their science notebook neat, complete and up to date. They must complete all assignment and make up all work missed during an absence. Students must bring their notebook to class EVERY day

READINESS: Students must be seated before the tardy bell, taking care of pencil sharpening, bathroom use and other chores before the bell. They must bring their notebook and pen or pencil **EVERY DAY**.

Behavior Consequences:

I vigilantly enforce the school policies regarding tardiness, gum-chewing, hats and electronic devices. I will give only 2 verbal warnings, then I will assign escalating consequences for each violation after that. Phones must be silenced and put away, in accordance with school policy. There are appropriate uses for phones in class, so there will be times when I allow students to use their phone. However, I will confiscate any phone being used inappropriately. This includes responding to texts from parents, so please do not text you student during class.

Required Science Class Materials

Your student needs the following materials:

1. A **sturdy composition books** (one for each semester) with 100 pages each. This is the **Science Notebook**, where most of the student work is completed and graded
2. A highlighter
3. A glue stick
4. A pencil and a spare

Absences

Regular attendance is an important part of learning. It is the student's responsibility to make up work after an absence. Absence **does not** excuse a student from the work. Work must be made-up in the specified time. All assignments can be found on my website

Tests and quizzes

There will be frequent Friday quizzes covering current class work and homework, as well as previously learned content. Each major unit of study will end with a unit exam. If a student is absent for the quiz on Friday, it will be their responsibility to MAKE-UP that quiz on the FOLLOWING Wednesday at lunch.

Homework Policy

Because some science content can be challenging for students and parents alike, the 8th. Grade Science teachers strive to make the homework meaningful yet painless. Homework is assigned on Friday and students have until the following Friday to complete this task. Students will have a class code for the weekly homework. This code will take them to their weekly homework assignment of 2-3 **SHORT** video clips supporting the classroom content. Students will watch the videos and answer questions. Each week of completed homework will earn a stamp on the "Stamp Sheet". A fully stamped sheet (6 stamps) equals up to 25 extra credit points. ****NOTE** iPads will be available during the week for students who do not have internet access at home.**

Labs

Labs and other hands-on activities are important learning experiences. Participation in labs is a privilege, and inappropriate behavior will result in removal from the activity with an alternate assignment, and possible exclusion from the next lab. A signed lab contract is required before participating in any lab.

Projects

There will be some at-home projects throughout the year. These projects are opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery of a concept. We will give ample time and clear instructions to ensure that everyone can succeed. These projects are not optional and must be submitted on time.

Extra credit policy

I periodically offer extra credit that will be available to ALL students. It is a student's choice whether to take advantage of these opportunities when offered. However, I ABSOLUTELY DO NOT OFFER INDIVIDUAL EXTRA CREDIT. Students who wait until near the end of a marking period to become concerned about their grade may find it is too late to do anything about it.

Grading Scale

Please monitor your student's progress regularly through Jupiter Grades.

90%-100% = A

80%-89% = B

67%-79% = C

57%-66% = D

56% and below is an F

Please review the syllabus with your student and sign BOTH SIDES of the attached sheet to allow your child to participate in hands-on learning. My goal is to provide your student with the best learning experience possible. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warmly,

Melissa A. Smith M.S. Ed