

Mrs. Sandoval
8th Grade 2016-2017 Science
Modular Trailer North (Outside Rear of the Building)
(435) 586-2830 CVMS Office
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Website: www.sandovalscience.weebly.com
Password: science21

Course Description:

Over the year we will cover concepts from: 8th Grade- biological and geological worlds, physics, chemistry and environmental science material covered in this class will be taught from a scientific viewpoint with an emphasis on the principles of the scientific method; of collecting and analyzing evidence, and making sense of the natural world through natural explanations. The students will have opportunities to plan and conduct their own experiments, coming to conclusions as they read, observe, compare, describe, infer and draw conclusions. Students should be encouraged to maintain an open and questioning mind in order to pose their own questions as well as find evidence to answer those questions.

Materials:

- ◆ **“One Subject” Composition Notebook: NOT SPIRAL BOUND!**
This will stay in the class all year as we build our interactive science notebooks.
- ◆ **Pen and Pencils (Pens need to be Blue or Black only)**
- ◆ **Ear Buds**

Class Rules:

1. A student’s behavior should not prevent the teacher from being able to teach.
2. A student’s behavior should not prevent any student from being able to learn.
3. Accept responsibility for those things within your control.

Assignments & Homework:

Students should expect that homework will be given when deemed appropriate by the teacher. There are also times when work in class cannot be completed and the assignments will require the students to finish them at home. Some assignments will be completed through hard copy, email, online, or turned in through an online document system (ie. Google doc).

Late Work:

All work turned in late (Not turned in on the due date) will receive *NO DEDUCTION* if received by quarter end. Please see Citizenship Policy for further information.

Exams and Test Retakes:

Exams will be given throughout the year to assess their progress and record their achievement. Tests and quizzes are to be completed when scheduled. Exams are given through an electronic method when available and appropriate. This method of testing gives the students second chances and because of this, test re-takes are **NOT ALLOWED** except under extreme circumstances that are cleared through the teacher. Quizzes will be given at the **END** of **EVERY** standard covered from the Utah State Core.

Extra Credit:

The students will be provided “Early Finisher” assignments. These are assignments that are available to students who have completed all their regular day work and are looking for a chance to earn some extra credit. If a student chooses to complete one of the “Early Finisher Assignments” they are required to complete the assignment **BEFORE** grades close for the class. All assignments have a maximum of 25 points, with four assignments total per quarter. The points are a **MAXIMUM** and may not reflect the points given.

Textbooks:

We will work out of several books throughout the course of this class and we only have one set for the class. If a student misses a day or is falling behind they can check science books out of the library to work with at home. Students can also find most of the information on my website, where I will try to provide scans of the book pages as well as any other reading necessary to complete the assignments and/or video content needed.

Website: www.sandovalscience.weebly.com Password: science21

On any given day the students will be able to access any work done in class through my website. The website will also allow for the students to print assignments, view any accompanying reading and also stay up to date on any work if they need to miss a day. Using the website is critical to their success in my class!

Grades:

Grades are composed from a variety of sources all with independent point association.

100% - 90%	A, A-
89% - 80%	B+, B, B-
79% - 70%	C+, C, C-
69% - 60%	D+, D, D-
Below 60%	F

Students will be informed of grades in varying ways throughout the year. Grade slips will be sent home on occasion. The students will also be expected to pull up their power school account and check their grades. During these times the students will record any missing assignments into their notebooks in order to track their own progress. **Cheating: Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment, exam, project or lab will receive a zero and their citizenship will be dropped automatically to Unsatisfactory. Allowing another student to copy your work will also be considered cheating and both students will be penalized.**

Attendance:

Science as a way of knowing requires the students be in attendance to learn the material. Many of the lessons are difficult to make up and labs are even more difficult. It is imperative as students, you come to class every day. Our time together learning the material is vital to your understanding of science and will ultimately reflect in your grade. Please REMEMBER, being excused for an absence does NOT excuse you from the work and any work missed while out of school is still the responsibility of the student.

Citizenship:

Please see the citizenship policy for information regarding citizenship.

Tardy Policy: Students must be in their assigned seats with their materials, ready to learn for the day. (Rushing the door as the bell rings does not qualify as being ready to learn.) Our time together is important and being prepared and ready to go only sets up the class for success.

Electronic Devices:

There will be times in class where students **will be** allowed to use electronics to complete assignments (phones, i-pads, tablets, etc.) However, students are not expected to bring these to class. If they have them, they will be allowed to use them on **occasion**. If they have not been instructed by the teacher to pull out their device, the device will be taken to the office and returned at office discretion per school rules.

Media in the classroom:

There are a few occasions throughout the year when entertaining movies are used as a fun way to enhance curriculum. Videos chosen will not have a rating above the PG level. G/PG movies are also used during Worker's Holidays and the occasional class party.

Animals in the Classroom:

In our classroom we have been fortunate enough to receive a grant from "Pets in the Classroom" by Petco. The grant we received allowed for our classroom to have a reptile tank with Fire Bellied Toads. We also have a fish tank and the possibility of acquiring other critters. These animals are for showcase only and to teach the students about habitats, environments, life cycles of organisms and other branches of biology. These animals are NOT to be handled or threatened in any way. The safety of our classroom critters is of the utmost importance and any behavior that challenges that safety will result in infractions.

Labs:

We will complete multiple labs in this class. Labs are meant to be a fun and different way of learning. However, the equipment that is used can be potentially harmful if not used correctly by a student. The science department also has lab equipment that is expensive. That being said, students are expected to be on their best behavior when performing labs. The lab environment will utilize a three strikes and you're out policy. If a student is behaving in a way that may break equipment or be harmful or distracting to others, they will be asked to leave the lab room and complete an alternate book assignment. Depending on this behavior, they may also be responsible for paying the cost of replacing equipment that is broken. If this occurs three times in a quarter, that student will not be allowed to return to the lab for that quarter. They will receive the chance to try again the following quarter. Students will be required to sign a lab safety contract acknowledging that they understand these lab expectations and consequences. Lab behavior that is unacceptable will result in issuance of infractions and the appropriate consequences will ensue.

Citizenship Policy

In our classroom we uphold the five themes of citizenship -- honesty, compassion, respect, responsibility, and courage. Exploring those themes, talking about them, and making connections between those themes and your students' lives are the keys to developing a true understanding of the concepts. The citizenship policy in our classroom is built on these themes and therefore each offense listed below carries weight toward the overall citizenship grade. An infraction is given when a student displays one of the four undesirable traits. Below is the chart explaining the infractions and corresponding consequences.

Late Work: Any work turned in AFTER the initial due date will NOT be penalized points but WILL be marked LATE and the student will be issued an infraction for the assignment.
(Unless marked as absent).

Behavior: Disruptive Behavior, Speaking out of Turn, Talking with Neighbors, Unacceptable Behavior during a Lab, etc.
(Behavior Infractions will follow school policy: Please see Student Handbook)

Tardy: When a student arrives to class late.

Academic: Any form of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.)

NOTE ABOUT PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is the stealing of another person's work and passing it off as their own. This includes the use of computer data, research, visual aids, etc.

Number of Infractions	Consequence(s)	Citizenship
0-3	No Consequences	H-Honor
4-8	Change in Citizenship	S-Satisfactory
9-10	Change in Citizenship Email/Letter home to Parents	N- Needs Improvement
10+	Conference with Parents & Review of Infractions with Mrs. Sandoval Lunch Detention with Completion of Behavior Contract	U- Unacceptable
Academic Dishonesty	Conference with Parents & Mrs. Sandoval (if need be Mr. Aitken) Zero on Assignment, Review of Infractions, & Behavior Contract.	U- Unacceptable

If a student receives an Academic Infraction they automatically move to 10+ Infractions, a conference with parents will be requested and the student's citizenship will be automatically changed to a "U" for unacceptable. The student will also receive a ZERO on the assignment attached to the dishonesty and will not be allowed to make up the work.

Myself, the CVMS Science Department and Canyon View Middle School, take the students' Citizenship within our classrooms seriously. The students who take the time to practice these elements and apply them to their daily lives become more productive citizens of the Canyon View Middle School student body. A student who receives infractions DOES however, have an opportunity to earn back their citizenship through additional assignments geared toward the five themes. In such an event, the teacher will provide an assignment and the corresponding infractions earned back toward a better citizenship grade.

Rewards and Good Times!

In our classroom we also praise and reward good behavior! Throughout the year as the class exhibits good behavior and a strong work ethic they will be rewarded with their choice of class party, video day, free time, etc.

Mrs. Sandoval 8th Grade 2016-2017 Science
Course Disclosure

Students:

This is the first graded assignment, please sign and return.

Students Name _____

Class Period _____

Class Number _____

Students Signature _____ Date _____

Parents:

Please review this disclosure with your student. After having reviewed it please sign and date indicating that **you and your student have read, understand, and agree to this document**, and you will be held responsible for the content herein

Parents Signature _____ Date _____

If there are any questions or concerns feel free to contact me through email, phone or stop by and visit with me.

Thanks!

Mrs. Sandoval
CVMS Science Department
cassy.sandoval@ironmail.org

NOTE: In the event that any change to these policies is deemed necessary, Students and parents will be given notification.

I have received Mrs. Sandoval's Course Disclosure and understand it is my responsibility to give it to my parent/guardian for review.

Student Name Printed _____ Class Number _____ Class Period _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____