

VRMS 8th Grade Science

Class Syllabus 2019-2020, Mrs. Stock – Room 503

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Welcome to 8th grade Science!! I am looking forward to sharing with you the wonders of the physical and natural world. The topics we will cover this year include:

- Forces and Motion
- Waves and Light
- Energy
- Astronomy
- Natural Selection and Evolution
- Geologic Time

The following information is a guide as to how this classroom functions, and will be an important reference throughout the year:

Assignments:

Quizzes/Tests/Projects: Quizzes will be utilized as a formative assessment, while tests will be given at the end of each unit. These assessments help guide who will need intervention before summative assessments. Projects are typically included in every unit and are mostly completed in class. Our class follows the school site retake policy for all assessments.

Labs/Classwork: Lab work is an integral part of the middle school science curriculum and is performed weekly. Safety will be thoroughly covered and a safety contract must be signed before lab work starts. Other classwork includes daily journals, notes, foldables, workbook pages, and group activities.

Homework: Assignments are designed to review and reinforce what we have learned in class. It is assigned 2-3 times per week, and due the following day at the BEGINNING of class, unless otherwise noted. Please check our website for the monthly calendar and weekly reminders on the announcements page for specific due dates.

Planners: Students should write the daily homework in a planner from the board. Students and parents can also check the assignment calendar online. This is a great means of communication between parents, students, and teachers.

Science Spirals and Graded work: Students will keep a science spiral throughout the semester that will be graded the day of each chapter test. Notes, guided practice, labs, and other support materials will be kept here to be used as a study resource and a way to keep organized. A section in your binder or a folder will be used to keep graded work such as workbook assignments and labs. Please keep graded work until the end of the semester and check that it has been recorded correctly in infinite campus.

Class Webpage: Our class webpage contains a wealth of information about what is going on, due dates, homework assignments, online assignments, etc.. You may check the weekly and monthly assignment calendar, download and print homework pages from the assignment download page, and make up labs due to absences. We will go over how to access all of this on back to school night with parents, and in class with students. We will also be using google classroom as a way to share with students digital resources and links.

Student grades will be updated on infinite campus at least **every Friday**.

Classroom Materials: You will need the following materials daily

- ✓ Section in a binder, labeled for science with one pocket
- ✓ 70 page spiral notebook – 1 per semester. Wide or college ruled
- ✓ Loose leaf notebook paper
- ✓ 2 sharpened #2 pencils
- ✓ 2 blue or black pens, 2 red pens
- ✓ simple calculator
- ✓ student planner
- ✓ 2 glue sticks or tape (student preference)
- ✓ colored pencils or crayons
- ✓ book cover for textbook at home – science books stay at home

Behavior Expectations

In addition to the school rules, the following are rules designed to create a classroom atmosphere that promotes **respect for others, creativity, and learning.**

Classroom Rules:

1. Be on time, on task, and prepared to learn.
2. Keep all electronics put away unless instructed otherwise.
3. Follow class procedures, all directions, and school policies.
4. Show respect to your teacher, our classroom, and your fellow students.
5. Clean up and organize your lab station. #notyourmaid ☺

Consequences for choosing to break a rule are as follows:

First time: warning

Second time: 10 science factoids in hallway - timeout

Third time: courtesy contract to be signed by parents

Fourth time: send to principal and/or after school detention

Severity clause: send to principal

Absent/Late work:

Student work is to be turned in on the day that it is due. As a teacher I value the importance of teaching students life skills, and therefore have adopted the policy that late work will have a **30% off penalty the week it is due**, and a **40% off penalty after that time.**

Follow these steps to get your work the day you return from an absence:

1. Record what you missed in your planner off of the posted “Assignments” calendar in the classroom or from our class webpage.
2. Collect homework/lab/classwork handouts from the manila folder located directly under the assignments calendar. You can also print almost all from home from the assignment downloads page on our class website.
3. If you missed a lab, click on “lab make up” on our class website, find the title of the lab missed and click on the link listed. You then must fill out and turn in the lab make up form by either printing it at home or getting a hard copy in class.
4. If you missed a quiz or test, schedule a make up time with me.
5. Make up work should be completed in the number of days you missed x 2. Ex: you were absent 4 days, so you have 8 days to make up work.
6. Completed make up work should be turned into the makeup work box located by the assignments calendar.

Retake Policy:

Our school site policy for retakes is that all assessments can be retaken one time, regardless of original grade. To retake a test or quiz, students receiving below a 70% must attend intervention where they will work on corrections and reteaching. The corrections will improve their score by 10%. Students then arrange a retake with me in my class during pride, at lunch, or after school. The higher score is kept.

If students scored above a 70% and want to retake, they must provide 2 pieces of evidence that they studied for the retake (flash cards, a one pager, questions at the end of the chapter, etc..) and they will be allowed to retake the test or quiz.

Assistance:

My job as a teacher is to 'teach' you the principles of science, to teach the value of life long learning, and to help ensure your success. I have outlined your responsibilities as a student to meet me halfway to ensure your own success as well. **DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS!** It is important to advocate (speak up) for yourself and let me know if you need help with classwork or the social aspects of this class. Our job is to help you. If your parents would like to contact me for a conference, or have any concerns, they may reach me by email at: sstock@tvusd.k12.ca.us or call me at school: 951-302-5188, ext. 3503. Email is the quickest method of communication.

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO AN AWESOME YEAR OF SCIENCE WITH YOU! I AM SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Stock