

SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTION/COURSE CONTENT AND ESSENTIAL LEARNING

How students spend their time in class is very important. Researchers have found that students spend as little as half of their school day on instruction and that engagement rates ranged from 50-90% depending on type of instruction in the classroom. (Hollowood, Salisbury, Rainforth, & Palombaro, 1995)

With this in mind the procedures in my class are designed to reduce distractions and increase student participation. Please read each of the following carefully.

Teacher Expectations:

EATING and DRINKING are not allowed in Science class. Parents please encourage your student to eat a healthy breakfast before leaving home or to purchase breakfast at school. Snacks should be consumed between classes if the student feels that they need extra nutrition.

Backpacks will be left in storage shelves located in the back of the classroom. This not only reduces distractions but also reduces the tripping safety hazard that scattered backpacks create.

Many of the assignments will be group oriented. Each student is expected to participate in the full activity. Completing assignments for another class is not acceptable when there is work to be done in Science.

Late work will not be accepted. Students will be given 3 homework/classwork passes each quarter to be used at their discretion. As a reward, students that have not used their homework passes in a given quarter and have no zeros will be awarded 1% point on their quarter grade.

Classroom Rules:

1. **Be prepared to learn**– this includes bringing ALL materials to class ON TIME every day.
2. **Be respectful** – not only to the teacher but also to your classmates – they, like you, are attending school to learn and it is disrespectful if you are engaging in behaviors that are disruptive to their ability to learn.
3. **Read all directions carefully before proceeding on any activity!** – if you do not understand be sure to ask for clarification!
4. **Follow all directions the first time they are given!** – you should not have to be told twice to begin, complete, or stop an activity or inappropriate behavior!
5. **ASK QUESTIONS IF YOU ARE UNSURE!** – this makes life easier for all!

CELLULAR PHONES:

My cell phone policy is as follows:

When directed by the teacher and it is clearly visible on the whiteboard, students may use their cell phone for educational purposes only. Students may not talk, text or email others during instructional class time. Students may use calendar, calculator, research and educational features when appropriate and approval has been given for that specific day.. If in doubt, do not have your cell phone out! **Please see the Student Planner for the school policy.**

GRADING POLICY

Students earn their grades - I do not give grades. Students' grades are based on completion and accuracy of homework, notes, quizzes, labs and tests. Weighting for each assignment varies depending on importance and difficulty (EX: Worksheet = 5 pts., Test = 100 pts.). Semester grades are determined using the following scale: Grading Categories will be weighted in the following manner:

Tests/Quizzes = 35% of grade
Lab/Projects = 20%

Homework/Classwork = 35%
Notebook/Participation = 10%

Grades in Focus – Check your grades regularly; ask questions about missing assignments and grades! Zeros are entered for any/all missing assignments even when students are absent as a reminder to turn in work.

Notebook Grade

All assignments for the current year (homework, labs, quizzes, etc.) are to be kept by the student in a spiral notebook. The notebooks are intended to organize student work and help as a study aid for unit tests. It is considered to be an interactive notebook, where students not only take notes but complete activities designed to help improve memory and understanding of concepts.

Students will **turn in their notebook on the day of a each test**, so all contents can be *officially* graded and recorded in the grade book. **Notebook grades should always be an A!** This is truly a measure of a student's effort in the class.

ON TIME WORK Classwork/Homework assignments are due at the beginning of the next class unless otherwise instructed. All homework that appears to be 90% complete will receive a stamp from the teacher. **The stamp indicates that the work is eligible for credit.** In order to receive full credit the student must have more than 90% of the work complete and it should be open and visible when teacher walks by. If student does not have their work out for the check then it is not considered for credit.

ATTENDANCE: MAKE-UP WORK, TESTS, ETC

It is your responsibility to get all missed assignments from the teacher, another student, or the class website. It is also your responsibility to complete make-up work in a timely manner and have it checked by the teacher. Since tests are never a surprise, **make-up tests will be given upon student's return during the class period immediately following their return if only one day is missed. All other make up tests are given by appointment only. Please see the Student Planner for school policy.**

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra-credit assignments are periodically offered to the entire class. Extra-credit will never be offered to individuals. Extra credit will never exceed the value one classwork grade.

10 STEPS TO PASSING Science:

1. **Be prepared** for class every day!
2. Be on time!
3. Attempt all class and lab assignments and homework.
4. **Correct all class assignments** and homework when reviewed in class.
5. Make sure your classwork, homework and notebook are completed on time.
6. **Read all assigned pages** and know your essential skills concepts before you take the test.
7. Review your notes and textbook before a test. In other words, **STUDY, STUDY, STUDY!**
8. **You have homework every night!** If you do not have an assignment, review your notes, vocabulary or re-read chapters! Spend 15 minutes each day reviewing.
9. Do TEST CORRECTIONS!
10. **ASK QUESTIONS AND GET HELP AS SOON AS YOU HAVE TROUBLE!!!!**

Science Fair Requirement

All students will be expected to complete a scientific experiment during the 1st semester. More information will be available shortly on this topic. Students will complete the majority of this assignment in class but there will be work that needs to be completed at home.

Contacting the teacher:

Email – kamorris@myoneclay.net

Phone – 904-336-8299

Website - <http://morrisscienceclass.weebly.com>