

# Sierra Vista Middle School Science

Mr. Jean Philip Mathot  
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Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year. Please take a few minutes to look over the following syllabus outlining the 8th Grade Science Program Content and Policies. All curriculum covered is in alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

**Units of Study:** Middle School Integrated

Engineering & Design	Earth Science	Life Science	Physical Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Defining problems</li><li>• Developing solutions</li><li>• Optimizing through testing and redesign</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The universe &amp; stars</li><li>• Earth history</li><li>• Earth and the solar system</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Genetics</li><li>• Natural Selection and adaptations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forces &amp; motion</li><li>• Energy</li><li>• EM radiation</li><li>• Properties of waves</li></ul>

## **Materials:**

The school will provide all of the necessary supplies for your child to have a quality educational experience. However, you may choose to assist your student by donating the following supplies for their **personal** use. Any donations are greatly appreciated.

- A **spiral notebook (8 x 10½ or 11 x 8½ (minimum 70 pages))** or a **3-ring binder with lined paper**, Charger planner, pencils, colored pencils, highlighters, pens, a basic calculator, tape, and metric ruler.

Text books will be issued and stay at home until the end of the school year. Please keep the science book at home for use in completing homework, studying for test and quizzes and for assigned readings. There will be a class set available during class. Students will also have access to the online version of the textbook (see [Canvas](#) for login information).

## **Communication:**

The easiest and quickest way to communicate is via e-mail at: [jpmathot@iusd.org](mailto:jpmathot@iusd.org). I try my best to answer emails within 36 hrs. If you do not receive a response within two days, please contact me by phone as your email may have been sent to junk mail. I can be reached at (949) 936-6627.

The progress of any student in my class can also be monitored by a visit to the **IUSD Parent Portal** at <https://my.iusd.org>. It will show the student's current grade information and scored assignments as they are updated in my grade book. Class information, assignments, projects and other resources can be viewed online at <http://www.mytoe.org> or on Canvas at <https://iusd.instructure.com>.

## **Behavior Expectations:**

The first concern is for student safety. Please read, discuss and sign the **Science Safety Contract**. I expect all students to:

- Be polite and respectful to everyone and everything in the classroom.
- Come to class prepared to learn and do a lot of science (have work complete and materials ready).
- Think like a scientist and be engaged in learning science (because science is *awesome*).
- Arrive to class **before** the tardy bell rings. Be on time to class so you do not miss anything cool.
- Show concern for the classroom and materials (clean up, recycle, & do not waste or **break** supplies).
- Follow Sierra Vista's implementation of PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support).

### Academic:

**Class Work** will be done in a spiral notebook or 3-ring binder (student/parent choice). Table of content pages will be updated as new material/labs/assignments are given.

**Group Work:** If students select groups, all conflicts will be resolved by students themselves. If the teacher assigns groups, conflicts and disputes will be resolved by the teacher.

### Homework:

Class work **not finished in class** will be part of the student's homework each night. Students should spend an average of **15-20 minutes** with homework most nights. This can include: finishing work that was not completed in class, assigned reading, projects, and studying for test and quizzes. Students will keep all class work, labs, assignments and notes neatly organized in their science notebook/3-ring binder. A significant part of the assessment is from student's written work. The secret to doing well in 8<sup>th</sup> grade science is completing all of your class and homework by the due date.

### Student Planner:

The planner is a tool for students to stay organized and for you to know what your son or daughter is doing in science each day. At the beginning of each week students will include information on homework, test, long range projects, and their due dates. This information is also posted on my web page.

### Absence/Makeup/Late Work:

Work turned in after the due date is considered late unless you are absent or have made arrangements with the teacher. Late work is strongly discouraged, but will be accepted if completed prior to the test. It is the *student's responsibility* to complete and submit late work for a grade, not your parents.

### **Late Work (Unexcused)**

- **Unexcused** late work will receive a deduction of 10% per day late, up to 50% off.

### **Absence/Makeup Work**

- It is the student's responsibility to find out what was missed ([www.mytoe.org](http://www.mytoe.org) or your planner).
- It is the student's responsibility to get the missed assignments ([Canvas](#), a friend, or in class).
- It is the student's responsibility to take any test or quizzes missed while absent (*see* Mr. Mathot).
- Absence work must be made up within the number of days absent to receive full credit.

### Grading:

I use a point system for evaluation that is converted to the following percentages for grade equivalents: 90%-100%=A, 80%-89%=B, 70%-79%=C, 60%-69%=D, & below 60%=F. The total current points in the class (which comes from: projects, tests, quizzes, activities, labs, classwork, effort, and notebook/3-ring binder checks) and the points they have in the class are available for viewing at the **IUSD Parent Portal** (<https://my.iusd.org/>).

Have a nice day and thanks for being in my class,

Mr. Jean Philip Mathot



Please have you and your child sign below that you have looked over the syllabus. This letter, along with the **Safety Contract**, will be kept in your **science notebook**.

**Student Signature:**

**Name (Print):**

**Date:**

**Parent Signature:**

**Date:**