

# Sierra Vista Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

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Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 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:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Integrated Science

Earth 2.0		
• Nature of Science (SEP's)	• Heredity and Genetics	• Biological Evolution
• Space - Earth's Neighbors	• Light and Waves	• Earth and Human Activity
• Space – The Solar System	• Forces and Motion	• Project Alert (Re-fresher course)

## **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, 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>.

## **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.

## **Behavior Expectations:**

The first concern is for student safety. Please **read** and **sign** the **Science Safety Contract** (page 4).

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, 3-ring binder (student/parent choice) or a digital notebook. 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 **10-20 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 or digital science notebook. A significant part of the assessment is from student's written work.

## **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 the 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, and notebook/3-ring binder/digital notebook checks) and the points they have in the class are available for viewing at the **IUSD Parent Portal** (<https://my.iusd.org/>).

**Excelling in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science:**

The ***secret*** to doing well in 8<sup>th</sup> grade science is **completing all of your class and homework** by the due date. Assignments and lessons are designed to help you better understand the concepts and material. Not all of these assignments will be entered into the gradebook. This is to allow you to focus on learning without worrying about mistakes (which is part of the learning process in this class) negatively impacting your grade.

In science this year you will, “**do learning for the sake of learning**” and not because it will be formally graded.

**High School Honors Science Information:**

Student recommendations for Honors High School Science will be completed during March of 2019. The criteria to be recommended for Honors High School Science (requirements are set by the high schools) is listed below:

<b>Students must meet <i>two</i> of the <i>three</i> following criteria.</b>		
Teacher Appraisal	Grade of “A” in 2 of 3 trimesters	85% or higher on end of course exam or alternative course assessment

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:** \_\_\_\_\_