



Welcome To Science! It is my hope that all students will learn a variety of new science skills and content, as well as gain an appreciation and enthusiasm for the wonderful world of science! I believe very strongly in an inquiry oriented, hands-on approach to teaching science. Students will be encouraged to be curious, ask questions, and explore their surroundings for answers, all the while being able to get their hands dirty and share a laugh.

Class Content:

Content for 7th and 8th grade is divided into a 2 year cycle, with year one focusing on life science and year two focusing on physical science.

- Prodigy Team Science Content for 2010-2011: *Life Science*
- Topics: The Nature of Science, Cells, Genetics, Classification, Microbiology, Ecology, Sustainability (our team interdisciplinary unit), & Forest Ecology

Science Notebooks:

- All students are required to keep a science notebook (provided by me) that they bring to every class. The notebook allows for organization of class notes, reflections, teacher directed assessments, and most importantly student directed learning.

Homework:

- All students are required to keep an assignment notebook where they will record their assignments. Assignments are clearly displayed on the homework board in the science classroom. They can range from small assignments to larger long term projects depending on the unit.
- In order to ensure that students are understanding science content *I allow students to re-do any homework assignment for a better grade.* The “re-do” must be turned in within a week of their returned assignment. I encourage all students to take advantage of this learning opportunity. There is no reason why every student in my class can’t have an A average for the homework portion of their grade.
- All assignments are expected to be on time and complete! If an assignment is not on time or *completed to the best of your abilities*, the letter grade will be marked down by ½ a letter grade for every day the homework is late.

Assessments:

- Students will be assessed by a variety of methods based on the VT Grade Expectations. These include inquiry assessments (labs), science notebooks, homework, quizzes, and creative projects.
- Grading is done using a point system. Each assignment is worth a certain number of points and will vary based on the weight given. The final grade is a percentage of points earned out of the total possible points. Projects, quizzes and labs tend to be worth 20-30 points, and homework 10-15 points.
- All grades will be entered into the Power School program and can be checked at any time by students and parents. I generally have all assessments for the week recorded by Friday evening of that week.

Class Expectations and Atmosphere:

- *My goal is to not only teach science, but to also provide a respectful, positive and fun environment where students want to learn.*
- *I ask that all students are respectful, participate actively, and have the courage to take risks and be challenged!*

Student Goals for Science Class:

In order to be academically successful in Science this year I will:

1. _____
2. _____

In order to keep a positive class atmosphere I will:

1. _____
2. _____

I, _____ have read and completed the science syllabus and
(print student name)

understand the class expectations. My parents / guardians have also read and understand these expectations.

(student signature)

(parent / guardian signature)

