Signal Mountain Middle/High School 2015-2016

8th Grade Science

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**Course Description**Eighth grade science will cover standards in chemistry, biology, and physics. Students will learn the content through reading, writing, labs, projects, and group work. Students will learn primarily through inquiry, collaboration, and hands on activities.

**Grading Scale** **Grade Weighting**

A 93-100 Year = 50% S1

B 85-92 50% S2

C 75-84 S1 = 50% Q1 Q = 50% Teaching tasks

D 70-74 50% Q2 50% Major Assessments

F 69 and below S2 = 42.5% Q3

I Incomplete 42.5% Q4

15% TCAP

**How will students be graded?**

* Teaching tasks:
* Class work: Each Thursday/Friday, students will take a quiz over the material covered during the week. Students should prepare for quizzes by studying notes, watching review videos provided by the teacher, looking over assignments done in class, and **asking questions**.
* Homework: Each Monday, students will take a quiz over any previous topic and may include a specific reading assignment. The reading assignment will be provided the previous week.
* Major Assessments: each 4 ½ weeks, students will have 3 major assessment grades: (1) a test; (2) a paper or project, and (3) a notebook check

**What is the advantage of using quizzes for daily and homework grades?**

Class and homework grades will come almost exclusively from the quizzes given during the week.

This system of grading:

* has been successful and popular with students and parents
* it allows students more time to enjoy extracurricular activities
* it provides instantaneous feedback about learning for both students and the teacher
* it reveals topics that need to be re-taught before the unit exam
* it provides a helpful review of important information from the unit
* it holds the student accountable for his or her own learning
* it eliminates problems in forgetting to turn in assignments or putting names on papers
* it helps increase student confidence and proficiency in studying notes, reviewing class work, and succeeding on tests.

**What if a student misses a quiz or test due to an absence?**

The lowest two quiz grades will be dropped each quarter. If a student misses a quiz due to absence, that quiz will be dropped and will not need to be made up unless the student misses three quizzes or more.

If a student misses a test, the test must be made up within five class days. This is for the benefit of the student – students who wait too long to retake tests tend to do more poorly than students who take the test sooner.

**How can students get makeup work?**

All makeup work will be posted on ManageBac or in a designated location in the classroom. Makeup work must be completed by the time of the notebook check or it will receive a zero. It is the student’s responsibility to find and complete this work or to ask for help if needed. *Missing a day of class does not excuse the student from doing the assignment*.

**Will class assignments be graded? If so, when?**

All student work (notes, labs, class assignments) will be placed in an interactive scientific notebook upon completion. Twice per quarter, students will be asked to submit notebooks for a notebook check that will count as a test grade. In the notebook check, eight randomly selected pieces of work will be graded and each will count for 10% of the overall grade. Students will also complete a reflection form which will count as 10% of the grade. The final 10% of the grade will be based on overall organization and table of contents.

**Communication**

Parent emails will be sent out periodically to provide information about what is happening in science. ***If you do not receive an email by week two, please contact me so that I can add you to my distribution list.***Students who wish to receive this email may also provide an email address*.* The school website and ManageBac are very good source of information for both students and parents. The websites contain assignment information, review videos, due dates, photographs, instructions for papers/projects, and helpful links.

**Electronic Device Policy**

Electronic devices (tablets, phones, etc.) are valuable tools that when used properly can enhance the learning process. That being said, devices will only be used during class when specifically directed to. Any use outside of this time will result confiscation of the device according to the school-wide policy.

**Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty is crucial to the success of a learning community and the progress of the individual. Please read the school’s new academic honesty policy. I will post this document on my section of the school’s website.

**Teacher Expectations**

Student engagement in the learning process is crucial to success. Teachers work to try and make the class engaging, however, students engaging themselves is as important to success.. Paying attention to direct instruction, authentically participating, avoiding distraction and distracting others, and giving their full effort are all important to make the entire class successful. Occasionally, students will find themselves off task or disruptive. I will make attempts to address these issues with the student directly. When these attempts are not successful I will contact parents/guardians and then administrators to help re-focus students.

Signing below assures that you have read and understand the above syllabus. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Please return on Monday, August 17th. A copy will be posted online.

Student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (if you want to be on class mass email list)

Parent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_