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**Science Course Syllabus**

**Teacher Contact Information**

Rene’ Grosdidier

Room 132

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**Textbook:** Prentice Hall Science Explorer series related to topic and subject being discussed.

**Course Description:** This course is designed to challenge students’ problem solving and critical thinking skills through the study of science. This course for middle school students focuses on understanding and inquiring knowledge of science by asking questions, designing investigations, gathering evidence, formulating an answer to questions, and communicating findings. Critical thinking, collaboration, accuracy, and communication skills will be practiced as students extend their scientific literacy. Unit topics will be covered throughout the course of the semester with a unit test or project given at the end of each unit.

**Required Course Materials:**

* Writing Utensils (Pens and pencils). No gel pens.
* Binder/Folders (Dividers for “Class Notes” and “Handouts”)
* College ruled paper
* Notecards

**Grading Breakdown:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Classwork/Notes** | **25%** |
| **Quizzes/Projects/Labs** | **25%** |
| **Tests** | **50%** |

***Classwork/Notes:*** *Will be utilizing Cornell Note taking methodology. Class works are subject to NOTEBOOK CHECKS!*

***Quizzes/Projects:*** *Quizzes will be given to assess the students learning progress. All quizzes will be scheduled ahead of time*

* *Tardiness*
  + Students are expected to be seated in their assigned seats and following instructions on whiteboard when the tardy bell rings. The seating chart may be changed throughout the year at my discretion.
* *Hall Passes*
  + Students should use the bathroom and get water before coming to class. Students will have ONE pass out of the classroom every two weeks, unless in the case of an emergency or an administrator calls the student out of class. If you have special circumstances, please have your parent contact me to consider an alternative arrangement.
* *Attendance* 
  + Attendance is crucial for success in class. Missed assignments are expected to be made up within **3** days. When you return from an absence, follow the class routine and begin with whiteboard instructions. When you have completed the whiteboard instructions, collect your missed work from the hanging file folder from your class. When you have completed the missing work, turn it into the tray.
  + When the need arises to reschedule a test or quiz, you will have to meet with me to complete the test or quiz before school or after school.
* *Textbooks* 
  + All students will be assigned a textbook to use during the class time as needed. No textbooks are to be taken home. It is expected that the books be returned in excellent condition. You should never write or highlight in the textbooks. Be conscientious about your study materials, and remember it is YOU that will be responsible for it at the end of the semester!
* *Food and Drink* 
  + Students will be allowed to have a water bottle in the classroom. However, students will not be permitted to have any food or drinks other than water. In addition, on days where laboratory experiments are being conducted, students must leave their water bottles in the classroom.
* *Class Dismissal* 
  + Students must stay seated in their assigned seats until I dismiss the class. I will only release the class when all students are seated.
* *Electronic Devices*
  + This includes but is not limited to cell phones, iPads, tablets, iPods, MP3 players, laptops, etc. Technology will not be used in the classroom, unless the teacher gives permission to use technology for the lesson. There will be times when I allow students to use technology to complete their assigned work. However, I expect students to put it away when we are finished with the assignment.

**Grading Policy**

Grades will be calculated using a points-based system. Each assignment will be given a numerical value and grades will be assigned based on the student’s ability and/or effort in proving mastery of course concepts in the given assignment. Each student’s earned points will be added and divided by the total possible points to determine their quarterly grades.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **% Range** | **Quality Points** | **Description** |
| A | 90 – 100 % | 4.0 | Outstanding Progress/Mastery |
| B | 80 – 89 % | 3.0 | Above Average Progress/Mastery |
| C | 70 – 79 % | 2.0 | Proficiency |
| D | 60 – 69 % | 1.0 | Passing |
| F | 0 – 59 % | 0 | Failing |

**Class Expectations**

1. Be Prepared and Prompt
2. Be Respectful
3. Clean up after yourselves
4. Be Engaged
5. Exit Better each class period

**Assistance**:

I have high expectations of you, but I want to help you succeed. I am always willing to help a student. If you would like to meet with me during your study hall, please see me beforehand to receive a pass. We can also make appointments for before or after school. Please come to me with any question, and remember that the only foolish question is the one that is not asked. Together we will make this a great year!

**Remind**

In order to increase communication, students will be asked to download the Remind app for their cellular devices and join their classes group. This app is intended to connect teachers with students and will serve as a tool to help remind students about upcoming events or deadlines. Additionally, parents may join both groups to stay up to date with activities and assignments.

To join both groups download the remind app or visit remind.com on a desktop computer. Sign up using your email address, cellphone number or both. Once you have created your account you can join a class by selecting “join class” and entering the following codes:

**6th Grade Science**- **rmd.at/k3f2b9 7th grade Science- rmd.at/cchk8**

**8th Grade Science- rmd.at/mgrosd**