

Our Science Class Contract 2013-2014

Welcome to our science class. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide you with a clear understanding of the expectations and responsibilities of all class members. Following this contract will lead to a learning experience that will be valuable and enjoyable. Deviations from these guidelines will be reflected in either your numerical or conduct grade of your report card, as well as further disciplinary action as per school rules and policies. The guidelines are based on established school rules and will help to make our learning environment safe, effective and fun. If you have any questions please feel free to write me a note or send me an email: msverderber@yahoo.com. **This is the preferred method of contact since I cannot take phone calls during the day.** Effective communication between teacher, student and parent is essential to class success. **My website is verderbz.com, where you can find grades, lessons, homework, important dates, assignments, links, etc.** A link to our new Online textbook for 7th & 8th grade science is also available on the homepage. Parents are expected to monitor their child's progress through the website.

Materials you need for class everyday

- One notebook for Science only, at least 100 pages (NO BINDERS)
- A folder designated for Science only.
- Pens and pencils everyday (more than one!)
- 1 piece Posterboard (for a future project. I will announce when to bring in)
- **Recommended:** colored pencils or thin line markers, Flash/ thumb Drive, graph paper
- **Requested:** 1 roll of paper towels or bottle of hand soap
- **Appreciated:** a pack of copy paper

Your science notebook will be checked periodically and graded. Deductions will be made if you are using a binder! We will discuss in class how the notebook will be set up. If there is any problem with supplies please send a note. Students are expected to be prepared everyday with their materials. Being unprepared for class will impact your grade.

General Classroom Rules

- **Get to work right away! Do Now, Teaching Point/Aim & Homework are to be done before the late bell rings!**
- **Do not wait for me to get to work. Teachers are on hall duty.**
- 1. Treat every person in the room with respect and kindness. Always use polite language.
- 2. Absolutely no talking when someone else is addressing the class, whether it is the teacher or another student.
- 3. Share your thoughts and questions by raising your hand and waiting to be called on. Students are expected to contribute to the class. Students without raised hands will also be called on.
- 4. There is no eating or drinking in the classroom. If you have a special circumstance please see me.
- 5. Absolutely NO GUM chewing. Chewing gum is strictly against school policy and will be reflected in your conduct grade.
- 6. You must come to class on time. If you are late, you must have a pass. No pass- you will be referred to the dean.
- 7. Always follow the directions of the teacher. Follow all Lab Safety rules.
- 8. Keep your hands to yourself. Do not touch anything that does not belong to you.
- 9. Always sit properly with your head up and feet on the floor. Please place your backpacks on the floor, not on the desk or chair.
- 10. All school rules and policies will be enforced in the classroom.

Be advised—breaking of the rules will result in the following:

- Phone Call home to Parents
- Referral to Dean
- Poor conduct grade on report card and lowered participation grade
- After school or lunch detention
- Removal from grade activities

Homework

- Homework will be assigned and checked on a regular basis, including Fridays. There will be some homework assignments requiring students to outline chapters in their textbooks which will be worth more than one homework grade. Students will have extra time to hand these in.
- Students are scheduled for Science only 4 periods per week. This may require work at home to make up for this reduced class time.
- **It is no accident that students who do their homework get good grades! Homework given in my class is rarely time consuming and always important for the class. If you don't do it, not only will you be penalized, but you'll be missing required information for the class and score poorly on your tests.**
- No late homework will be accepted, unless there is a note from your parents the day the assignment is due. There will be no regular opportunities for make-ups. There are NO exceptions; homework comes from the current lesson or topic, not doing it on time defeats its purpose.
- If you are absent, the homework assigned **during your absence** is due the Monday following your return to class. You are given the weekend to catch-up.

- As per departmental policy no advance assignments will be given if you are on vacation during school days. Students will still be accountable for all assignments missed.
- 7th and 8th grade students will be using an online textbook designed by the Totten Science Department. It is known as the Flexbook. Please refer to the separate Homework Assignment sheet.

Absences

If you are absent from class it is your responsibility to get the notes you missed and make up any homework and assignments. Please have the contact number of at least one class mate. If you are absent the day we review for an exam you are still responsible for taking the exam. If you are absent the day of the test, you should expect to take any missed quizzes & tests the day you return. **8th Grade students will be taking culminating state science tests at the end of May & beginning of June. 7th and 8th grades are critical years as your student prepares for high school. The Science curriculum has been rewritten to prepare students for the 9th grade Living Environment Regents class. 8th grade students who do not achieve a grade of 75 or better as a final grade will risk being placed in a non-Regents science class when they enter high school. Grades matter this year and every year!**

Laboratory Reports- 8th Grade

Many of the topics we will investigate this year will include a lab project. These are activities and experiments that we will do together in class. There will be a written report and/ or worksheets that accompany the project. These reports must be completed and **will count as a test grade**. Lab report format can be found on verderbz.com. **Unacceptable work will be handed back and must be corrected before credit is given. Reports not handed in will receive a zero; late reports will have points deducted.**

Science Fair Project & Research Paper

Every student is responsible for completing a science fair project. We will begin discussing the projects shortly. Be aware that they will be due sometime after the February break. Interim portions of the project will be due prior to the completed project. In addition to the project, each student must write an individual research paper based on their investigation. ***This will count as your grade exit project.***

*****Plagiarism (cutting and pasting without proper attribution) is a very serious offense. ALL STUDENT WORK WILL BE READ BY ME. If your work is copied from another student, all parties will be penalized. I will not accept any paper that is copied from another student, book, magazine, article or internet web site. If an assignment is plagiarized you will automatically receive a zero as a grade for the assignment. I hope that this will not be a problem at any time of the year. Students should discuss with me any question they may have. In- class instruction will be given in how to properly cite the works of others.***

Departmental Grading Policy:

Exams, quizzes, Lab Reports, Projects, Essays and Current Events	75%
Homework	15%
Class Participation, Lab Participation & Work	10%

*You are responsible for everything that is done in class, including: lecture, notes, discussions, labs, readings, and videos. **In- class assignments may be collected or quizzed on at any time.** You will succeed in this class if you pay close attention and come prepared. Do not waste time in class. In addition to assignments, points will be awarded and subtracted for participation. Participation points will be subtracted for behaviors including: tardiness, sleeping, excessive talking, talking out of turn, being unprepared and disrupting the class.*

Have a wonderful year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Verderber

Homework #1

- **Parents and Students: Please sign and return the bottom portion below to Ms. Verderber.**
- **Staple the contract to the inside of your science notebook.**

I have read and understand the above science class contract for 2012-2013 and understand my responsibilities.

Student Name _____ Class# _____

Print

Student Signature _____

Parent Name _____

Print

Parent Signature _____