

PINE VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

2009 - 2010

8th Grade Science Class Policies

Mr. Miller and Mrs. Herrera

Welcome to 8th grade science! This will be an exciting and rewarding year. We will work together to instill individual critical thinking skills and the teamwork needed to conduct laboratory experiments. We will discuss science and technology as they relate to every day life. Most importantly, you will learn about the wonders of our universe, and discover the fun of understanding our world and how it works. We would also like to inform students and parents that acceptance into high school Biology is based on available space in classes in conjunction with the 8th grade science teacher's recommendation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

We will study five important topics:

- Motion and Forces
- Structure of Matter
- Chemical Reactions and the Periodic Table
- Astronomy
- Individual Experimentation

These topics are mandated by the State of California, and are described in detail in the California State Framework for 8th Grade Science. A description of these standards can be found in the beginning of the Physical Science textbook.

GRADES:

All assignments are given point values.

Chapter Tests	up to 100 points	Homework	5-20 points
Quizzes	10-30 points	Class work	5-30 points
Lab Report	15 point	Parent Signatures	5 points
Science Project	100+ points		
*Daily Warm-up	5 points daily		
*Sci./Tech. News	(replaces daily warm-up when absent)		

* Daily warm-up: there will be a daily warm-up assignment upon entrance to class; students have to be seated, quiet, and ready to work on the warm-up before the bell rings in order to get points. The points are based on effort, not necessarily on correct answers.

*A Science & Technology news article is at least one full page of text with an attached 5-sentence summary about the article, this will replace the points missed when absent for the daily warm-up.

Letter grades are based on the percentage of the total possible assigned points:

90-100% = A	80-89% = B	70-79% = C
60-69% = D	Below 60% = F	

Grades will be **weighted** as follows:

Assessment	40%
Classwork/Labs	35%
Homework	20%

Warm-ups 5%

Grades are posted online on schoolloop.com. At times, parents will be asked to sign current grade printouts. However, students and parents are expected to regularly check grades on schoolloop.com.

TEXTBOOKS

You will be issued the Prentice Hall textbook "Focus on Physical Science". This book is to be kept and used at home, and costs \$72.69. You are responsible if your book is lost or damaged, so treat it with respect.

SUPPLIES

Bring the following to class EVERY DAY. If you come to class unprepared, class participation points will be deducted.

REQUIRED

Binder Reminder

Assignment sheet and Binder Reminder

Reading and Note-taking workbook

Science Notebook/section of notebook

White, lined, 3-hole, binder paper

Black or blue pens

Pencils

Red pens

Calculator

HELPFUL

Stapler

Highlighter

Colored pencils

HOMEWORK/CLASSWORK

Assignments will be listed every day at the beginning of class and will be updated weekly on schoolloop.com. Copy the assignments onto your Assignment Sheet and/or your Binder Reminder. Homework is turned in as students enter the classroom and as they prepare for daily warm-up.

LATE WORK/ABSENT WORK

Homework is due promptly at the beginning of class and will not receive credit unless it is turned in on time. Homework can be turned in one day late for a **maximum** score of 70% and two days late for a **maximum** score of 50%.

Homework will not be accepted after 2 days late.

Following an excused absence, you must complete all the work you missed within a reasonable amount of time after returning. Any work assigned before your absence is due on the day of your return. It is your responsibility to find out what was missed and how to make it up. (This includes labs, videos, tests, quizzes, etc.) Check schoolloop.com and make an appointment with Mr. Miller or Mrs. Herrera to make up what was missed. Saturday school is encouraged for students who miss excessive amount of work.

CLASS RULES

Rules in the classroom are the same as the rules outlined in the Pine Valley Handbook. Safety and consideration of others are most important!

TARDIES

If you are not in your seat quietly working on your warm-up with your supplies ready, you are considered tardy. Tardies will result in the automatic loss of warm-up points for the day and cannot be made-up. Repetitive tardies will be subject to the Pine Valley discipline policy, which may include: parent phone calls, litter pick-ups, detentions, and referrals to the office.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mrs. Herrera lherrera@srvusd.net

925-479-7780

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Parents, please sign below to acknowledge that you have read this policy.
Students, return the signature and keep the policy in your science notebook for the entire year.

Student Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____