

Sierra Vista Middle School Science



Dear Parents and Students,

I welcome you to the 2011-2012 School Year. Please take a few minutes to look over the following letter outlining the 8th Grade Science Program Content and Policies.

Teacher: Mr. Jean Philip Mathot

Syllabus: Material covered is in alignment with California State 8th Grade Science Standards.

<u>Trimester One:</u>	<u>Trimester Two:</u>	<u>Trimester Three:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigation and Experimentation• Force and Motion• Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structure of Matter• Chemical Reactions• The Periodic Table• Chem. of Living Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Density & Buoyancy• Earth in the Solar System

Materials:

The school will provide all of the necessary supplies for your child to have a quality educational experience. However, you may choose to assist the school by donating the following supplies for your student's personal use. Any donations are greatly appreciated.

- Charger planner, pencils, colored pencils, highlighters, colored pens, tape, 8 ½ x 11 spiral notebook, and/or lined paper.

Text books will be issued and stay at home until the end of the school year. Please keep the science book at home for use in completing homework, studying for test and quizzes and for completion of assigned readings. There will be a class set available during class. Each student will also be given a Science Standards Review workbook to keep and use at home.

Communication: The easiest and quickest is via e-mail at: jmathot@iusd.org. I try my best to answer my emails within a day or two. Class information and resources can also be viewed online at <http://www.sierravistams.org/mathot/index.htm> or at <http://Blackboard.iusd.org>.

The progress of any student in my class can also be monitored by a visit to the **IUSD Parent Portal** (<https://my.iusd.org/>). It will show the student's current grade information and scored assignments as they are updated in my grade book.

Behavior Expectations:

The first concern is for student safety. Please read, discuss and sign the Science Safety Contract.

I expect all students to:

- be polite and respectful (respectful of others and prepared to learn and do science)
- think like a scientist and do quality work
- show concern for the classroom and materials (recycle, don't waste supplies & clean up)
- follow all school rules

Academic:

All assignments are posted in the room on **BOK** (*Board of Knowledge*) and on my web page. **Class work** will be done in a spiral notebook, 3-ring binder, or packet of paper (student/parent choice). Table of content pages will be filled out as new material/activities/labs/assignments are given.

Group Work: If students select groups, all conflicts will be resolved by students themselves. If the teacher assigns groups, conflicts and disputes will be resolved by the teacher.

Homework:

Homework will be assigned weekly along with a given due date. This can include: suggested readings, class work, projects, and studying for test and quizzes. Late or incomplete work will result in a reduced grade. Students will keep all class work and notes in their science notebook, 3-ring binder, or packet of paper. A significant part of the assessment in class will come from what the student puts forth in their notebook, 3-ring binder, or packet of paper.

Makeup/Absence Work: Must be made up within the number of days absent or it will result in a zero (this includes any test or quizzes missed). This is the STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY, not the teacher's.

The student planner is expected to be filled out for each day. This is a tool for students to stay organized and for you to know what your son or daughter is doing in science each day. It should have homework, long range projects and due dates written down for each week.

Grading & Science Notebook:

I use a point system for evaluation: 90%-100%=A, 80%-89%=B, 70%-79%=C, 60%-69%=D, & below 60%=F. The total current points in the class (which comes from projects, tests, quizzes, activities, labs, and notebook, 3-ring binder, or packet of paper checks) and the points they have in the class are available for viewing at the **IUSD Parent Portal** (<https://my.iusd.org/>).

On the front cover of the science notebook, 3-ring binder, or packet of paper is the Grade Label for the Science Notebook. Scores range from 0 to 5 ("5"=50 pts, "4"=40 pts, "3"=30 pts, "2"=20 pts, "1"=10 pts, & "0"=0 pts out of 50 possible points per notebook grade). If the assigned work has been completed in full, the student will receive a "4" or "5" on the checks. Work that is not completed by the due dates assigned will result in lower scores. Approximately 50% of the student's grade in the class comes from these checks.

Remember; school days are cool days, especially when you are in 8th grade science. Have a nice day and thanks for being in my class,

Mr. Jean Philip Mathot

Please have you and your child sign below that you have looked over the syllabus and safety letter. This letter, along with the Safety Letter, will be kept with your science work.

Student Name (*Print*):

Signature:

Date:

Parent Signature:

Date:
