



8th Grade Science Class
Ms. Rodriguez
mrodriguez@ps171.org

Welcome! I am looking forward to getting to know each of you and am excited about this year. This packet of information is very important, and I would like for you and your parent(s)/guardian(s) to read through this information together carefully. ***Please read, sign, and return by Tuesday (9/11/2018).***

8th grade science is an integrated science course. Traditional Life, Space, and Physical Science topics will be taught within the context of larger themes. Themes used this year will be: Reproduction, Heredity, Evolution, Forces and Motion, the study of the Earth, the Sun and the Moon, Ecology, and the Human impact on the environment. Over-arching themes and cognitive organizers will be in use. Science as Inquiry will guide all of our investigations. All of our content reflects the standards set forth in the New York State standards for the eight grade science. The instructional activities in science classes will be differentiated in depth, complexity, and pace of instruction.

Supplies:

You are expected to bring these materials with you to class EVERY DAY!!!

- Writing supplies such as pen or pencil (Black or blue)
- 1 red pen for grading
- Loose leaf Paper
- Roll of paper towel (only one time)
- Science notebook or section in binder
- 1 container of disinfectant wipes (Clorox or Lysol) to be donated for class
- Bottle of hand sanitizer
- 2 Composition notebooks
- 1 ruler
- 1 scientific calculator (could use the one from Math class)

Student Expectations: For us to have a successful year together in science class, you should know what I expect of you. These are general rules that can be applied to any situation.

1. Show respect for your classmates, teacher, and our room.
2. Practice safe classroom and lab behavior.
3. Be prepared and ready to learn each day at the start of class.
4. Follow all other school rules and policies. Including **No Cell phone and NO TEXTING in class! No Game playing during Class while using iPads. No Snapchat.**

Consequences: In the event that you *choose* not to follow one of the classroom rules, one or more of the following will result depending on the infraction:

Assignments & Grading:

Grading Policy: Grades are determined by adding points earned through the following:

1. **Notebook checks:** Done at the end of each unit.
2. **Homework:** Checked for both completion and understanding. This may include accuracy too, so make sure you are using your resources (books/notes)
3. **Tests:** You will be given a week's notice on these. If you are absent the day of the test, you will be expected to take the test the day you return. If you are absent the day before the test (and no new material has been covered) you will be expected to take the test.
4. **Quizzes:** More frequently given and most of these are announced.
5. **Lab work:** Some smaller one day activities, others may be multiple days and require a lab report.
6. **Projects:** a few throughout the year- points vary depending on the depth and breadth of project

***Extra credit assignments are not given to individuals at the end of a marking period to boost grades. There may be extra credit opportunities given to the class at various times so take advantage!**

7. Students should check **Google class and Pupilpath** periodically to check for accuracy and any missed assignments

****When completing homework assignments, lab assignments, research assignments, etc., be sure to complete work independently. Copying lab work or homework or plagiarism of any kind will result in a failing grade for the assignment. Even when working in lab groups, although raw data may be the same, questions and conclusions should be written in your OWN words. Understand that both/all parties involved in cheating will be penalized. So do not give your lab or homework to anyone to copy. Even "working together" and turning in identical (or almost identical) assignments will result in students sharing the awarded point value of an assignment.**

Grades:

Projects	20%
Test and quizzes	30%
Labs	20%
Class work/class notes	20%
Homework	10%

Assignment Details

"Do NOW's"

Each day when you come into the classroom, there will be a short question or task for you to complete as well as what we are doing that day. I expect you to be in your seat and

starting/copying the “Do Now” as soon as you sit down. You should complete this work in your marble composition book and it will be discussed at the start of class. These will be collected at random during the week for a grade and also assessed in the Notebook checks. If you are absent you will need to get the “DO NOW” from a friend or the website.

Notebook Checks

These are always given after a unit test. They are meant to keep you organized and get credit for assignments that I may not have collected previously. You will receive plenty of notice as to when we will have a notebook check. The grade will include points for organization, neatness, and having all of the assignments complete and in order.

Homework/Responsibility

Students are expected to complete every assignment *on time*. Late work homework will **NOT** be accepted. Having said this let me also say that I understand emergencies arise. You will be given ONE LATE PASS to use EACH MARKING PERIOD. In order to receive full credit for the late assignment, you must staple this pass to the front of the assignment you are handing in late. No more than 1 day late.

Larger projects, papers, lab reports etc. may be turned in for a 20% reduction per day.

If you are at school at any time during the day that an assignment is due, I expect you to turn it in, even if you will not be in my class that day. Also, if you know you are going to miss class due to a late arrival or a tardy or a planned trip, you should stop by to find out what you will miss/missed *that day*. Lost or missing assignments can be found on Google class.

Extra Help:

Extra help is always available to those who need it. If you are having difficulties with the class material, please don't wait to get help, see me or email me immediately. I am available in the morning, lunch (Tuesdays and Thursdays), or after school by appointment.

Got Questions?

EMAIL ME!! I am more likely to respond quickly to your concerns as either a student or a parent if your question/concern is put in writing via email. I check my email both at school and at home.

Safety Procedures

We will be performing various activities and laboratory exercises throughout the year. A few important, common-sense rules must be followed.

1. Responsible behavior is essential. Behavior that could potentially cause harm to anyone in the classroom will not be tolerated.

2. Eye protection must be worn when instructed to do so.
3. Perform NO unauthorized experiments.
4. In case of fire or accident, call teacher at once.
5. **Report ALL injuries to the teacher.**
6. Do not put anything used in lab into your mouth.
7. Avoid breathing fumes of any kind.
8. No eating or drinking during a laboratory, activity or ever in class.



9. Keep work area neat at all times. Clean up spills immediately. If broken glass, call the teacher.
10. If working with chemicals or flame, hair and loose clothing should be secured.
11. Always pour acids slowly into water when mixing.
12. Dispose of excess reagents as instructed. Do not return unused reagents to their original containers, unless instructed to do so by your teacher.
13. Carefully and thoroughly read directions before beginning any activity.
14. **THINK** about what you are doing.

** Students who do not follow these procedures during a laboratory exercise may be given a score of zero "0" for the activity and/or be removed from the area. The behavior may also be cause for a disciplinary referral.

Communication:

If you would like to contact me, please feel free to call the school to arrange a conference. Or feel free to use the School Website at www.PS171.org, mrodriguez@ps171.org, through Google classroom or Pupilpath. Check Google class regularly to see assignments due date and what we are doing in class everyday!!

Student Name: _____ Class: _____ Date _____

I reviewed and understand Ms. Rodriguez Science **class expectations/ Procedures, etc.** and understand that I can contact her at mrodriguez@ps171.org or through Pupilpath, and Google classroom.

I have also read and agree to follow the **Safety Procedures** attached to the procedures. I realize that I must obey these rules to insure my own safety, and that of my fellow students and teacher. I will cooperate to the fullest extent with my teacher and fellow students to maintain a safe lab/classroom environment. I will also closely follow the oral and written instructions provided by the teacher. I am aware that any violation of this safety contract that results in unsafe conduct in the laboratory or misbehavior on my part may result in a zero "0" for the activity, being removed from the laboratory, and/or detention.

Student Signature

Date

Parents,

Parent/teacher communication is often vital to the success of a child. If at any time you have questions or concerns throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact me. The best way is through email: mrodriguez@ps171.org

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian printed name and preferred method of contact (phone number and/or e-mail)

Phone number: _____

Parents Email: _____