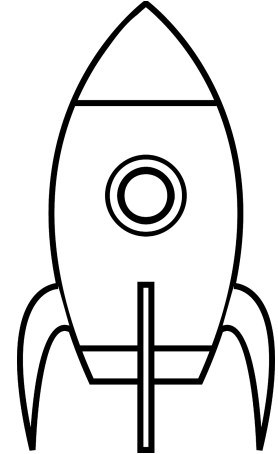


8th Grade Science Syllabus
Santa Rosa Charter School for the Arts
2019-2020



TEACHER:

Michelle Holmstedt
(Ms. H, Ms. Holmstedt)

Contact Information:

*Email: mholmstedt@srcs.k12.ca.us

*Ms. Holmstedt's Science Webpage: Coming soon!

*Remind app: www.remind.com (class code: Narwhal#8)

School Office Phone: 707-890-3920 x21201

Course Description

Welcome to 8th Grade Science! It is a pleasure to have you in my class. This is a one year integrated course of: Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth & Space Science. We will study the Next Generation Science Standards for Course #3 Science through a variety of activities.

A Little About Ms. Holmstedt

I started my teaching career here at SRCSA six years ago after working at the Sonoma County Water Agency. I am passionate about meaningful science education which includes local watershed studies and learning about local salmonid populations in the Russian River! Seeing kids passionate about the work they do and the "ah ha" moments is what I love the most about being a teacher.

I don't consider myself to be an artist, but I have a major appreciation for *all* art forms, the type of art I find most exciting is the visual arts. I enjoy woodworking, mixed media pieces, and fish printing (Gyotaku) the most.

When I was a 6th-8th grader, I loved science class, performing experiments and investigations, PE, and school rallies. I think school pride is hugely important and helps create a fun and accepting school environment. I am part of the Leadership Club and also enjoy being the intramural sports organizer.

Outside of teaching, I enjoy quality time with my family & friends. My husband and I have been married for 6 years and we have a rambunctious three year old son named Logan. In my spare time, I enjoy: fishing, kayaking, photography, gardening, hiking, cooking, playing softball, and of course... watching the San Francisco Giants! GO GIANTS!!!

TEXTBOOKS: CPO Focus on Life Science, CPO Focus on Physical Science

*These will be used in class only.

Units of Study

TRIMESTER #1: 8/14 - 11/1

Intro to the Science Classroom

- Procedures
- Safety
- Lab Equipment Practice
- Science skills (measuring, collecting data, graphing)

Genetics & Evolution

- Mutations
- Evolution of Life
- Embryological Development
- Genetic Variation in Populations

TRIMESTER #2: 11/4 - 2/21

Earth's Place in the Universe

- Universe, Stars, Solar System
- History of Planet Earth
- Human Impacts (focusing on resource consumption)

TRIMESTER #3: 2/24 - 5/28

Energy, Forces, and Interactions

- Newton's Laws
- Electrical and Magnetic Forces
- Kinetic and Potential Energy
- Gravity
- Waves

Besides our units of study, students will also review the following (from their 6th & 7th grade years):

Health Class (will be taught with the Human Body Systems Unit)

- Injury Prevention & Safety
- Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
- Mental, Emotional, and Social Health
- Nutrition and Physical Activity (for 8th grader)

Investigations and Experiments

- Lab Safety and Procedures
- Science & Engineering Practices (How scientists approach a problem)
- Engineering & Technology (Understanding the engineering process)
- Cross-Cutting Concepts (Making connections between difference sciences)

Types of Learning Opportunities Include:

- Labs and Activities
- Projects and Reports
- Class work
- Presentations
- Assessments
- Homework
- Interactive Science Notebooking
- Tests, Quizzes, Exit Tickets
- Service Learning & Volunteer Work

Grades and Work Expectations

You will be graded on everything listed above (in the Learning Opportunities section) which will reflect your understanding of the current science standards we are working on. All students are expected to participate in all learning opportunities. Proper headings and general neatness are expected on every assignment, especially in your **Interactive Science Notebook**. Assignments that do not meet these expectations, will be marked down and/or may not be graded.

How your grade will be determined in this class:

Classwork, homework, labs, projects, essays, and tests are all graded and worth a specific amount of points. Total points earned divided by the total points available equate to a student's grade.

Illuminate Education Parent/Student Portal

"What's my grade?" "Do I have any missing assignments?"

You can access your grade by going to: <https://srcs.illuminatehc.com/login>. Follow the instructions on the page to the access center. Please keep on top of your grades and assignments.

Progress Report Schedule:

Quarter #1: October 11th

Quarter #2: December 20th

Quarter #3: March 13th

Progress Reports go home to families mid-trimester as academic check-ins

Assignments:

Assignments are expected to be turned in on time. Late homework assignments will NOT be accepted, unless they are due to an excused absence (out sick, etc...). However, major projects will be docked 10% for each day past the original due date.

Absent Students:

If you are absent, it is **your responsibility** to check Ms. Holmstedt's Science webpage. If you have questions or need a physical copy of an assignment, PLEASE check in with me on the first day you get back to pick up your missing work. If you don't, you will earn a zero on those assignments. ☹ I will not be able to remember the days you were absent; even if you are absent, you need to complete the work.

Student Behavior Expectations

Your personal behavior is the key to the classroom.

- Every student must come to class **on time** and be **prepared**.
- Be **in your seat** when class starts.
- Have your **supplies** out and ready to go: pen, pencil, paper, homework, handouts, journal, etc...
- You are expected to follow **all school rules** as well as our **class and lab rules**.
- You are expected to come to class with an **attitude** that will **allow you** and **others** to **learn**.
- Show **respect** for yourself, your classmates, your teacher, and the classroom.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

- If you are not behaving safely during a science lab, you will be excused from the experience and take a zero, NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Detentions may be given to students who do not correct their behavior after a warning. Detentions will be served as decided by the classroom teacher and parents will be notified.

* I promise to treat each student with respect and fairness. In return, I do NOT tolerate disrespectful behavior from my students.

Disrespect- to say or do something that shows a lack of respect for (someone or something).

Parting Thoughts:

Our individual success is within our control. We have the power to decide whether we succeed or fail. I have high expectations for each one of my students and expect full effort in everything we do. I am proud to have the opportunity to work with you this school year and discuss your educational goals. I believe that you matter and that your future is important to our community.

Two of my favorite quotes...

“The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.”

-Vince Lombardi

“A hero always tells the truth, no matter what people think of them and no matter what the consequences are.” - Movie: “Max”

STUDENTS...

Please use this space to tell me anything that you feel is important for me to know related to your academic success in my class.

Signature Page
(DO NOT RIP OUT)

For Parent/Guardian AND Student

Please read the above information and sign acknowledging that you **understand** the **information** and **expectations**. Also, have your parent/guardian read and sign below acknowledging that they also understand the **information** and **expectations**.

Parent/Guardian name #1 (Print) Parent/Guardian signature #1 Date

Parent email address #1

Parent/Guardian name #2 (Print) Parent/Guardian signature #2 Date
(If applicable)

Parent email address #2

Student name (Print) Student signature Date