

Mrs. Fulk's Life Science and Physical Science Class Rules, Procedures and Great Expectations

PHILOSOPHY: We are a community of learners engaged in a quest for academic excellence and committed to becoming responsible, science-literate adults. We are unwavering in our belief that we must act with integrity and treat each other with respect. If we treat each other with respect, this will remain a place where people will want to be.

WELCOME to my classroom/lab! I know that with all I have planned we are sure to have a great year. Our class will involve everything from lab activities to online explorations, so be prepared for some variety. In order to keep things running as smoothly as possible and to allow room for more fun in the classroom, I have set up some rules and responsibilities. An understanding of these will help to eliminate any uncertainty you may feel. As a matter of fact, your first homework assignment is to complete the forms on the last page and return them to me on the 1st day of school signed by you and a parent or legal guardian. Keep the rest of these handouts in your binder. You will need them beginning the 1st day of school.

SUPPLIES: Each student must bring to class each day (except lab days):

1. textbook-must be covered at all times. These are fairly new books and very expensive. You will be charged \$1 per day for an uncovered book.
2. black or dark blue pens, red pens, loose-leaf paper
3. a set of colored pencils (at least 8) If you can find erasable ones, even better! You should also have a small sharpener for your colored pencils as you may not use the classroom sharpener for colored pencils.
4. your 3-ring **AMAZING SCIENCE** binder. You will be instructed how to organize it with dividers and are expected to maintain it as directed. It can be one of your greatest helps in Science.

I also recommend that you have a small stapler at home or at school. All multipage assignments must be stapled before you come to class. You may also want to have some gummed reinforcements for your binder pages.

HOMEWORK: Students are expected to record assignments in their homework notebooks. While I do post my homework on my web site, it is a courtesy, and subject to change. Students should expect nightly homework in addition to long-term assignments. If there is no assigned written work or reading, students should be reviewing notes and class work. Homework is reviewed/corrected daily in class with the daily grade based on completion. However, from time to time I will collect homework for a grade in order to encourage students to do their best on homework. Also, I sometimes give pop quizzes on the previous night's homework.

QUIZZES: Multiple quizzes are given for each unit of study. There are some quizzes which count double such as the Lab Equipment/Safety quiz. Students must earn at least a "B" on this quiz to participate in lab activities. 8th grade students are expected to achieve at least a "B" on the Element quiz. Most, but not all, quizzes are announced. There are no make-ups for quizzes given while absent (except major ones like Lab Equipment and

Safety). Students are merely marked 'absent' unless frequent absences become a problem.

LAB WORK: Lab work is an essential part of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and includes some class work, all Computer labs and in-class labs. Lab work is graded 1-4, Incomplete or Missing. A grade of '4' earns 96%, a '3' is 88%, a '2' is 78% and '1' is 70%. Because lab work assignments vary so much, I sometimes select only certain parts to grade. For instance, I may determine that question 2 & 4 are the most significant and assign a grade based on those 2 questions. I do not announce ahead of time which parts I will grade, and sometimes grade the entire assignment depending on which skills I am emphasizing.

In grading lab sheets, keep in mind that 'C' is average. To receive a better grade you must show more effort, thought, work, etc. Since many lab activities give very detailed instructions, simply following the steps and recording results are the minimum expected. Accurate data, analysis and conclusions are most important.

TESTS/PROJECTS: Generally a test is given over each unit. Tests are announced at least a week in advance and may include true-false, matching, multiple-choice, completion, short answers and essay questions. There may be times when a Performance Assessment is done instead of, or in addition to, a test. Depending on the unit, students are sometimes allowed to prepare a 3"x5" index card with notes for use on a test. I do not give study guides for a test as students are given many handouts, notes and worksheets from which to study.

Projects are sometimes assigned and are counted as ½ or as an entire test grade depending on the level of difficulty.

Some units will be handled using Differentiated Instruction techniques. Students are allowed to choose the grade they will work for as well as choose activities depending on their interests and ability levels. In that case, homework is handled differently. Students are given handouts explaining, in detail, how each unit is done.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to actively listen, record notes and examples and work in groups, alone, or with me on assigned activities. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students are expected to abide by all school policies outlined in the school handbook and in my class rules. Class participation is imperative to success in my class. Come prepared and ready to work!

MISC.: (1) Points are deducted for incorrect spelling.

(2) I do not give extra-credit work. All tests and many quizzes and projects have extra points built into them. (Ex. A test is worth 104 points, but I calculate the percentage grade based on 100 points. A 90 is scored as 90% instead of 87.)

<u>GRADING:</u>	Tests/Projects	45%
	Lab/Class work	20%
	Homework/Participation	10%
	Quizzes	25%