

# Course Outline - 8th Grade Science



## **Contact information**

Name: Mrs. Liqa Moin

Class Room: G-5

Email: [lmoin@pausd.org](mailto:lmoin@pausd.org)

Phone: (650) 213-0141

\* Email is my preferred mode of communication. You can expect to receive a response within 24 hours of sending your email. If you have not heard back from me within a few days, please resend your email as I may not have received it.

## **Course Introduction**

This year-long course will explore three areas of physical science; physics, chemistry and astronomy. In physics, we take a look at forces, especially earth's gravitational force and its effect on motion. Our chemistry unit involves exploring the atom and matter, and how matter undergoes changes. We end the year with astronomy where we explore the greatest discoveries made in the past century about our universe.

You will learn through a variety of instructional strategies, such as hands-on activities, cooperative learning groups, observations, laboratory work, and individual and group projects.

## **Required Materials**

- A spiral notebook with graph paper pages will be required for science. You may purchase it from Mrs. Moin for a cost of \$4.00.
- A three-ringed binder to be shared with other classes (one section for science)
- 2 pencils with erasers, 2 dark-colored pens, highlighter
- Binder paper
- Colored pencils(not markers)
- Basic calculator If you have one for math you may use that
- Gluestick
- A 15 or 30-centimeter ruler
- Scissors

## **Grades**

All your work is to be your own and in your own words whether it is homework, class work, or a major project. While you may work with other students, the final product is to be your own. Copying the work of others or cheating on quizzes will not be accepted and will result in a zero on that particular assignment.

Grade categories will be weighted as follows:

30% - Science notebook

30% - Quizzes/Tests

20% - Homework & Discussion Boards

20% - Participation

Grade reports will be updated on Inclass periodically with the most current science grade. Students who are not performing to their ability are encouraged to seek help from Mrs. Moin during TEAM or lunchtime. Parents will be notified with a "Warning Notice" sent by mail mid-quarter, if their child is earning a grade of 75% or below.

### **Homework**

You will receive weekly homework on the first day of science each week and it will be due on the final day. Homework must be done by the due date and must not be done in class. For the first quarter, the homework will require a parent/guardian signature.

### **Participation**

You are expected to be engaged in the classroom on a daily basis. This means actively listening, volunteering answers, asking questions, arriving to class on time and being prepared for learning every day. To emphasize the importance of your active participation in class, a participating grade will be worth 20% of your total science grade.

You will begin with 100% participation grade with deductions taken when necessary. The following are examples of deductions taken from your participation grade:

- Arriving late to class (-5%)
- Coming to class without a science notebook (-5%)
- Negative or no contribution during a group assignment (-10%)

Participation grades will be reset to 100% at the start of each new quarter.

### **Science Notebook**

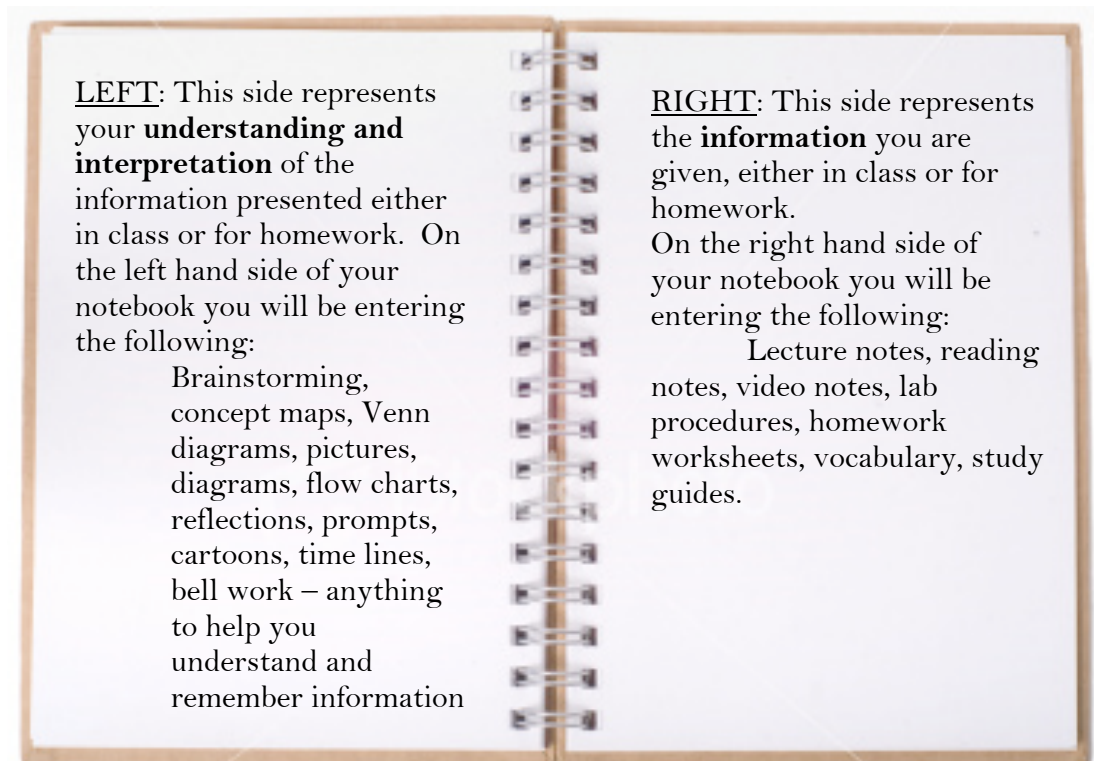
The science notebook will need to be brought to class everyday and will contain most of the class work. Science notebooks will be graded once each quarter, but be prepared for random spot checks. You will get a more detailed sheet outlining how you will use your notebook, however these are the basic rules you need to follow:

- Name and period on the front cover of the notebook.
- Appropriate title and date for each entry.

- Use both sides of every paper.
- Rulers used for data tables, charts, etc.
- Drawings should clearly labeled.
- Keep your notebook neat.
- Follow right side/left side guidelines (more information to come)

### **Notebook Organization**

Our science notebooks are interactive, and are divided into left hand side work and right hand side work as follows:



### **Discussion Board**

Because of limited time in the classroom, we often are unable to have valuable discussions in the classroom and even when there are discussions, we do not hear from everyone. Online discussion boards are a convenient and novel way to gain everyone's input on a topic.

You will have an opportunity to participate in an online discussion forum through Inclass. Mrs. Moin will demonstrate how to post and respond to discussion threads before you are required to post. Discussion questions will often be open-ended and not have a right or a wrong answer. Each posting will be worth 10 points and you will be required to adhere to Mrs. Moin's rules for posting. Mrs. Moin will be closely monitoring posts and will delete and/or edit any inappropriate posts that do not follow the requirements.

### **Late Work/Absences**

Please make every effort to get your assignments in on time. Late work will receive a deduction of 25% off.

When you return from an absence, check the 'Extra Worksheets' basket for any papers that you missed. It is always prudent to also ask a buddy what you missed, and see me at TEAM, on the first day you are back. In addition, homework will be posted on Inclass, as a back up, so that you can check the homework from home.

### **InClass**

Inclass will be an important part of the communication between you and Mrs. Moin. You will be expected to check the science homework page at least once a week to view assignments, check for extra credit, announcements and/or post to the discussion board. The url for Inclass is: <http://k2.pausd.org/>. You should have your ID and password but if you need any help logging on, please see Mrs. Moin.

As added incentive for you to check Inclass, there will be times when a secret message is posted which when shared with Mrs. Moin the following day will earn Mendeleev Money (explained below).

### **Extra Credit**

Periodically, there will be Extra Credit to help challenge those students who are interested in a particular science topic. Sometimes an extra credit assignment will be announced by Mrs. Moin, other times it will only be posted on Inclass. Any extra credit points you earn can be applied to past or future assignments.

### **Class Expectations/Rules**

1. Be respectful of others
2. Participate. All input is valued, and everyone takes a turn at speaking.
3. Be on time, in your seat and quiet when the bell rings.
4. Come prepared. Have pens, pencils, science notebook ready.
5. NO food or drink in class except with the teacher's permission.

Students who break a classroom rule will be required to pull a yellow CONSEQUENCES FORM and select an appropriate consequence for their action. The form remains on file with Mrs. Moin for the remainder of the school year. If a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense takes place, parents will be contacted and a 4<sup>th</sup> offense will cause a student to be sent to the office with a referral.

## **Mendeleev Money (M.M.)**

This year, you will be using Mendeleev Money in Mrs. Moin's classroom. Dimitri Mendeleev is the Russian scientist who first organized the periodic table of elements. In his honor, Mendeleev Money (M.M.) has been created to help earn you passes to your locker or the bathroom, homework extensions, and excused tardies, among other rewards.



Mrs. Moin will create opportunities for you to earn MM in her classroom in numerous ways, including:

- Returning forms with the required parent signature
- Answering difficult question in class
- Winning a Bingo or Splat game
- Checking InClass and responding to 'secret' question
- Sharing relevant science news articles with Mrs. Moin (by sending her an email link or bringing in an actual article)
- Posting on the first day a discussion board topic is posted on InClass
- Offering classroom help

### **MM Price List**

#### **1 M.M.**

- Extra worksheet or binder paper
- Borrowing required materials such as colored pencils or ruler.

#### **3 M.M.**

- Bucket of Goodies (candy)
- Pencil

#### **5 M.M.**

- Pass to your locker or the bathroom
- One excused tardy
- Homework extension (one night)

#### **50 M.M.**

- Ice cream sundae party at the end of the semester