

### CLASS REQUIREMENTS

**Textbook:** It is called *Life Science*. You will keep your copy of the textbook at home, so you can do your homework. You do not need to bring your textbook to school.

**Workbook:** I will give you a workbook called an *Interactive Reader*. It rephrases main ideas from the textbook, and has you write answers to questions about what you read in it. This will be yours to use throughout the year, and you will sometimes turn it in to me. If you lose it, you will need to buy a new one, so I will usually keep them safe in the classroom for you.

**Homework:** I will assign homework every day (even on Fridays!). It will usually involve reading 2-3 pages out of the textbook (reviewing things we covered in class that day), then answering review questions on a handout. *Homework* will usually take less than 20 minutes to do, and will be collected the next day in class. If you do not turn your work in on time I will *phone home*. Whatever classwork you do not finish in class becomes homework as well.

**Tests and quizzes:** Almost every week, I'll find some way to check what you have learned with a short *quiz*. About once a quarter, you will take a district test called a benchmark. Both are made of *multiple choice* questions.

**Supplies:** Assignments are to be written in pencil or *black* ink only, so you will need pencils and black pens! You can't use *blue* ink, because that is the color I use for grading. You will also need your own set of *colored pencils* for illustrating and color-coding.

**Portfolios:** I will provide each student with a *folder* so that they can keep all of their work in the classroom, if they want. Do not throw anything out! At the end of the year, I will help you to put together a *portfolio* to present to an adult.

### GRADING

**The system:** I grade using points. Each hour of work is worth about 10 *points*. Your grade is made up of several types of assignments such as homework, class work, tests, and labs. Each major idea that we study is called a *standard*, which matches up with science concepts that the state of California wants you to know. So, you will be earning points in each standard, and hopefully passing every one!

**Semester grade:** Your *semester grade* will be based upon how many points you earn throughout the semester. I do not take the average of term grades.

**Letter grades:** A—90% and higher, B—80-89%, C—70-79%, D—50-69%, F—below 50%. This means you must earn at least *half* of the points possible to pass the class.

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**Posting grades:** From the front office, you can get an access code to a website where your science grade will be posted. When you log in, it will show every grade you earned on every science assignment, as well as the grade you have in class at that time. It will also list all of your missing work! This means that you can either ask me about *your grade* at an appropriate time in class, or check it *online* when you are not at school.

**Parents and grades:** Your parents can check your grade *online*, too! Also, if you have below a C- at the end of the week, I sometimes phone home.

### **GETTING HELP!**

**Tutorials:** My room will be open regularly at lunch every day of the week during school hours. You can bring your lunch and your friends and hang out, and I can help you with science and other subjects (especially math) while you chew....

**Corrections:** You may make *corrections* on almost all *assignments* as many times as you like. That means it is possible to get a perfect grade on almost any work for this class.

**Late work:** I do not take off any points for *late work*. If there is an emergency and you cannot do the work, I don't want you to worry. Find me the next day and talk with me. Also, if you have missed school, I can give you *extra time* to get your work done.

#### **e-mail:**

You may contact me and ask me *questions* at:

[askmrc@earthlink.net](mailto:askmrc@earthlink.net)

I try to check my *e-mail* by 8 pm every school night, and I respond to every e-mail that I receive.

#### **websites:**

Grades can be found at:

<http://hac.salinas.k12.ca.us/homeaccess/>

I also have a *website* set up for this class:

<http://askmrcscience.net>

At this location, you will be able to download assignments, see any websites we looked at in class, and find a huge list of links on all sorts of science topics.