



Teacher: Soledad Hayes & Valerie Crowell

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Conference Period: 5th Period (12:20pm-1:07pm)

Tutoring Opportunities: Tuesday/Thursday 7:45am-8:15am; Wednesday 3:45pm-4:15pm

Class Materials:

- Composition Journal
- Pencils and Pens (Blue or Black Ink)
- Colored Pencils
- Glue Stick

Class Resources:

- Primary Resource: StemScopes (in SSO). Link is below.
- Legends of Learning: <http://www.legendsoflearning.com/>
- Discovery Educations (in SSO). Link is below.
- Canvas (in SSO). Link is below.

Access to StemScopes, Canvas, Office365 and other tools are available to students through our [Single Sign-on Portal \(SSO\)](#). Students receive their SSO login during enrollment.

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to apply science concepts to their everyday life. Along with being able to ask questions and solve problems, students are able to collect and organize data, and draw conclusions based on their findings. While much of the focus is on physical science, the course is built on the following strands: scientific investigations and reasoning; matter and energy; force, motion, and energy; earth and space; and organisms and environment.

Course Goals:

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Use structures to identify cell types.
- Explain the interactions of energy, forces, and motion.
- Understand how the layers of the Earth affect plate tectonics.
- Identify the elements present on Earth and recognize how they are organized in the Periodic Table of Elements.
- Comprehend the movement of thermal energy and energy transformations.
- Identify the parts of our solar system.
- Seek answers to questions and draw conclusions from investigations.
- Think and act like a scientist.

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 60% Major 40% Minor
- Major grades – tests (including District Common Assessments, six weeks assessments, projects, final essays, research papers, presentations); minimum three per six weeks



- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, journals; minimum four per six weeks
- A letter system (S, N, U) is used to report a student’s conduct based on proper/responsive conduct and citizenship
- Per Board Policy EIA (LOCAL), “The District shall permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a **failing** grade. This policy applies only to initial identified major grades and does not apply to daily assignments, quizzes, six-week test, and semester final examinations. Upon reteach and retest, the new test, project, etc. recorded will be a high score of 70%.
- Per Board Policy EIA (LOCAL), “The highest available grade on the redo/retest of a **passed** major graded assignment or assessment for an initial grade of 70-84 is an 85.”
- Official grades will be in Skyward only and can be accessed by student and parent through Family Access.

Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:

- Assignments not completed during class time are expected to be completed and brought to school to hand in at the beginning of class the next school day unless another due date is specified by the teacher.
- Students will be assigned projects that may require work to be done outside of class time and are major grades.
- Students will be provided with study guides for exams and are expected to study outside of the classroom.
- Upon entering the classroom, students are expected to appropriately follow the instructions or activity on the board to prepare for the day’s learning.
- Class discussions are essential means to understanding the concepts taught, so students are expected to actively participate appropriately.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

When a student is absent, he or she should request the missed assignments and check the make-up folder for the work. Students have one day for each day missed plus one additional day in which to complete all make-up work. If there are special circumstances, the student should visit with me to consider arranging an extension of the due date. Any assignments given before the absence are due upon the student’s return to school.

If a pre-arranged absence is required, a parent should send a note to school prior to the absence. As much as possible, assignments may be given and completed ahead of time. Any assignments given before the absence are due upon the student’s return to school.

Students who are absent on the day that a test is given should be prepared to take the test upon their return to school. Make-up tests may need to be completed before school.

Students are required to be in their assigned seats at the beginning of class as determined by the tardy bell. The Highland Discipline Policy will be followed when a student is tardy to class.

1. Warning
2. Morning Detention
3. After School Detention
4. Saturday School



Classroom Expectations:

- Upon entering the classroom (virtually or in person), students should follow the instructions or activity provided to prepare for the day's learning.
- Students should maintain a detailed and organized Interactive Science Notebook.
- Students are expected to participate in class discussions.
- All assignments should be completed with integrity and to the best of each student's ability.
- Appropriate behavior is expected from all students to maintain a safe and respectful learning environment.
- Ask questions! I am here to help!

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

- 1st 6 Weeks: Life Science
 - Interactions in an Environment
 - Prokaryotic and Eukaryotic Cells
 - Classifications of Organisms
- 2nd 6 Weeks: Physical Science
 - Potential and Kinetic Energy
 - Forces and Motion
 - Inclined Planes
- 3rd 6 Weeks: Earth Science
 - Layers of the Earth
 - Tectonic Plates
 - Classifying Rocks and Minerals
- 4th 6 Weeks: Chemistry
 - Elements and Compounds
 - Formation of New Substances
 - Metals, Nonmetals, and Metalloids
 - Chemical Reactions
 - Density
- 5th 6 Weeks: Energy
 - Thermal Energy
 - Energy Transformations
 - Energy Sources
- 6th 6 Weeks: Earth Science
 - Gravity
 - Celestial Bodies
 - Space Exploration

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity values the work of individuals regardless if it is another student's work, a researcher, or author. The pursuit of learning requires each student to be responsible for his or her academic work. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in our schools. Academic dishonesty, includes cheating, copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee and considers written materials, observation, or information from students. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary and/or academic penalties. The teacher and campus administrator shall jointly determine such action.