7th Grade Science

Marcey Cogar

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Remind: text code @cgakee to 81010

Conference Period: 12:20- 1:00pm

Tutoring Opportunities:

Before school: Wednesdays- 7:30- 8:00

After school: Tuesdays and Thursdays- 3:45- 4:15, and by appointment

Class Materials:

- 2 or 3 subject spiral notebook
- colored pencils/markers
- pencils/pens
- glue sticks
- Canvas, OneDrive, Office 365

Access to Canvas and Office365 tools is 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 advanced skills necessary to be able to use evidence to construct testable explanations and predictions of natural phenomena. While much of the focus is on organisms and the environment, 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. Advanced critical thinking and problem solving will be developed with individual or group research projects presented in a competitive or public forum.

Course Goals:

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to understand and explain the relationship between structures and functions in organisms, concepts of genetics and inheritance, ecological roles and interactions, and catastrophic events and Earth's processes.

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 60% Major 40% Minor (Advanced courses 70% Major 30% 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
- Semester exams will count 1/7 of the semester grade
- 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%.
- 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:

Students will be required to complete assignments outside of the classroom. These assignments may consist of, but are not limited to, weekly homework, projects, take-home exams and additional practice resources for struggling students.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

During remote learning, daily active participation/assignment submission is required in order to be considered present.

Attendance is a necessity. Missing class will impact success in this course. It is the student's responsibility to collect and make up missed work.

Any class assignments that need to be made up may be completed during tutorial opportunities or at home.

Any assessment (quiz or test) that needs to be made up or retaken must be completed within three days of the actual administration of the assessment, unless other arrangements are made.

Tardies:

•Tardies will be handled in accordance with PVMS' tardy policy

Classroom Expectations:

I have designed the activities and assignments for pre-AP science to challenge students through the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills, I expect all students to be prompt, prepared (having all necessary and required materials), ready to participate, and productive every day. Active learning and collaboration are required in this course in order for success to be attained.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments:

Units of study include adaptations, ecology, Earth's processes, cells, human body systems, and genetics.

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.