

# Mr. Ross Science 8 Procedures:

2015-2016

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Welcome to 8th grade! Whether you have me for Science 8 or Integrated science, I'm very excited for the year with you. Successful completion of this course will equip you with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in your high school science classes, as well as making you more mature and productive citizens. The ultimate goal of this class is to make you better thinkers, better problem solvers, and better citizens. There will be many things I will do to help you achieve that goal, but there are a few things you must do to ensure your success.

1. Be aware of the classroom procedures. What do you do when you are absent? When is it appropriate for me to talk? What is the homework policy? Is there extra credit?
2. Bring your classroom supplies every day. What are the materials you will need every day? Is there a book for the class? What do I do if I forget something?
3. Always try your best. Even when you don't think you can do something (yet!), sometimes I just need the effort from you to get you there.
4. Don't be afraid to fail. Sometimes I'm leading you somewhere, but I'm leading you through failure to get you there! We learn more from our failures than our successes...just don't continue to fail at the same thing. Learn from your mistakes!
5. Be an active learner! This means listening, asking questions, taking your own notes, talking with members of your group, and participating! Don't just mooch off your group mates, sleep through class, and stare at the clock.

If you follow this advice, you can do well in this class. If you don't, then you may have heard the phrase, "Shooting yourself in the foot." That means doing something that is bad for you to yourself. Don't shoot yourself in the foot...it hurts.

## MATERIALS

1. STEM Students must carry their chrome books to class (Periods 1 and 2)
2. A grid-ruled composition notebook, or graphing paper in your binder
3. A science binder for any handouts, homework, quizzes, and paper
4. A calculator. Don't complain about math in science class...it is necessary to your learning
5. A writing utensil.
6. Your agenda, EVERY DAY.

There are materials that you may use throughout the room that have labels on them. Please feel free to use these materials, but make sure you return them to the same location, and in the same condition, that you found them in.

## PARTICIPATION

Participation is necessary to your success this year. You will need to ask questions, answer questions, help in demonstrations, work in groups effectively, discuss your thoughts with others, and evaluate the work of your classmates. Effective participation means you are contributing to your learning and the learning of others.

Group work is a large part of your classroom learning experience, so you will need to utilize old and develop new interpersonal work skills. We all have something we can learn from others, and they can learn from us as well, but you must have an attitude of respect. NEVER attack a person in your group. We may argue with their position using data, but we never argue with the person. (See the difference?) NO PERSONAL ATTACKS. A good test of whether you're damaging the relationship with a partner is this: you should always be able to ask your group member a question and know they will help you. If you are at a point where that trust is gone, FIX THE RELATIONSHIP. If you cannot fix it alone, come see me for help, but remember--you are 8th graders now. As one student said, "Save the drama for your mama".

## HOMEWORK

Homework will be given to you to work on several times per week. Each day after homework is assigned, we may randomly grade a few problems, take it as completion, or I may choose students to work problems out in class. When you don't do homework, this is not an excuse to not work out the problems in class.

## EXTRA CREDIT

I do have extra credit opportunities available from time to time. Take advantage of them when you can. Do not ask for extra credit during the last week of the grading period and rely on that to bring your grade up.

## ABSENCES

If you are absent from class, you are still responsible for the learning that has taken place. It may be a lab that you missed, a lecture, or a reading, but you must still complete it within a time no greater than the amount of time you were absent. I try to be flexible, but don't take advantage of a teacher being gracious.

1. When you are absent, please check the blog and/or twitter for information that you missed from class. The blog is <http://bpross13.edublogs.org>.
2. There are white drawers at the corner of the room near the teacher desk that contain handouts from the week. Upon returning after an absence, visit these files and gather any materials you may have missed.
3. Find a classmate/partner who can get you up to speed and share any of the learning that we did on the days you missed. Have them catch you up!

## BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS POLICY

The short version of my behavior policy is that you should know and follow the Lakeview Student Handbook, found at the front of your agenda. My expectations for behavior are that students are actively engaged in learning the material for science class, and that they are not detracting from their own learning, the learning of others, or my ability to instruct the class. This covers a wide variety of behaviors that may be appropriate in some circumstances, but inappropriate in others. For example, during classroom instruction, students may need to raise their hand to comment in class, if only to provide order and focus to the activity of class. However, during a lab scenario, they do not need to raise their hand to be recognized, and productive conversation is more acceptable.

There are a few incidences where certain behaviors are always expected. Make sure you are prepared for class, whether that means having all your materials, having your pencil sharpened when the bell rings, being in your seat when the bell rings, or being able to find a paper within 30 seconds of being asked to produce it. It is expected that you always arrive to class on time. Tardies are marked each time. There may be certain circumstances where reasons warrant your being tardy to class (a pass from a teacher, health concern, late lunch, ect), but without a pass or schoolwide email, it is up to my discretion whether to pursue action regarding tardies. Another example of inappropriate behavior in class is rude or disrespectful action or speech toward any human being...ANYWHERE. Crude joking, unkind words, ridiculing, interrupting others, arguing, fighting, damaging personal or teacher materials, and distracting others are just a few examples of disrespectful actions directed at others that will not be tolerated.

I don't necessarily have a written rule code for class, but the school has one that can be a good guide for any student in any situation:

1: Respect yourself, others, and your school

2: Conduct yourself in a way that will not keep adults from teaching or you and others from learning.

Any minor issues are discussed with the student, but more serious or chronic issues may result in a parent/guardian contact as well. Detentions may be given when deemed necessary, but office referrals will be given for more serious or chronic issues. My goal when I see students make poor behavior choices is to correct the behavior. Sometimes a simple warning will suffice to get a student back on track, but other actions may include calls home (during or after school), restitution (to restore to normal something that you "messed up"), conferences, loss of privileges in class, and detentions or office referrals.

## GRADING

It is a good idea for you to keep a record of your own grades for each quarter so that you can ensure that you earn the grade you deserve. Missing and late assignments can sometimes cause the grading system to score your assignment as a 0, when really you deserve a grade. There have been incidents with other teachers as well where the gradebook has not saved correctly, so it's always a good idea for you to know where you are in the class.

We will also have quizzes (10-15 points) each Friday over the week's materials. There is, however, a retake of the quiz! Retakes are for students who earned below an 80% on the first quiz, and the retake can only give you an 80% as a high grade.

## LABS

Lab situations require special considerations from all students. The easiest thing to remember is that you may need to dress appropriately to the lab, which I will give you information on prior to the lab. Some labs require nothing special in the way of special clothes or shoes, while other labs (especially in Integrated science) may require goggles (provided), close-toed shoes, and long hair or jewelry to be tied back. Lab's also require care in your attitudes towards others and behavior with lab equipment. Any unsafe behavior in a lab situation that puts others at risk of danger may result in a 0 on the lab, or a reduced grade. Accidents do happen, and that is not a problem; but intentional misuse or abuse of equipment, or people, will not be tolerated.

## ROUTINES TO EXPECT:

1. Begin each class period with writing your agenda information and doing the bell ringer
2. Thursday evenings you will have a reading assignment, with reflection questions over the evening or the next day for bell ringer work
3. Fridays will usually have a short 10- 15 question quiz reviewing the week's materials.
4. Each 9-weeks there will be a pre-test at the beginning of the quarter and a post-test at the end of the quarter. The post-test will be for a grade.

## CONCLUSION

You are now 8th graders, and I will be expecting 8th grade things from you, like being courteous to others and taking ownership for your work and your actions. I will challenge you academically on tests, quizzes, homework, and labs. Don't give up on yourself, and ask questions the whole year. This is another part of being mature: working hard. Good work ethic is one of the most admirable qualities in my students. As 8th graders, you should also know where the line is with the teacher and with other students--don't cross that line, and don't stand near that line. Lastly, part of being an 8th grader means you are mature enough to adapt and adjust to changes that come your way. Based on the needs of the class, some classroom policies may change, but by and large, this is the format for the class.

I want all of you to learn and grow this year, so always be cognizant of that fact. I hope that you can have fun, make friends, grow and develop, but know that our goal is for you to become great problem-solvers. Best of luck this year, and remember to ask for help!

# Policies Agreement and Contact Information for Mr. Ross's Class

Please read over the classroom procedures and policies with your student on their Google Drive. Once you have read over it, please return this form completed with your most updated information. If you have any questions, concerns, or helpful information in working with your student, please feel free to contact me at [brendan\\_ross@plsd.us](mailto:brendan_ross@plsd.us) .

1. *I have read, understand, and agree to Mr. Ross's classroom rules, expectations, and procedures.*
2. *I understand that any additional rules found in my student handbook also apply, and that it is my responsibility to complete my work well, behave well, and make good decisions throughout the year.*
3. *My parents/guardians and I have contact information for Mr. Ross and know that a class blog is updated daily for our benefit.*
4. *We also understand that Mr. Ross may contact my guardian during the day or after school when necessary.*
5. *I understand that lab situations require safe behavior and proper dress, and that a failure to abide by these considerations may result in a zero grade on the lab and possible disciplinary action (depending on circumstances)*
6. *I will do my best this year to make good decisions and succeed.*

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_