

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Textbook: It is a green textbook called *Life Science*. You will keep your copy of the textbook at home, so you can do your homework and make corrections. You do not need to bring your textbook to school, because I have a set in the classroom for you. Pages from the textbook will also be on-line.

Homework: I will assign homework every day (even on Fridays!). *Homework* should take less than 20 minutes to do. If you were working hard in class, you will not have much homework. This is because homework will just be finishing whatever assignments you do not finish during class. Daily, you can expect us to work on different kinds of assignments that focus upon a specific idea. These ideas will either be from the textbook, or from pages on the internet. (We'll be using websites to learn about some topics, because textbooks have not yet been made that cover all of the new stuff I'm supposed to be teaching you.) Handouts will be collected the next day. If you do not turn your work in on time I sometimes *phone home*.

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. Both are made of multiple choice and short answer 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.

Handouts: I will keep extra copies of handouts in *file cabinets* in the classroom for you, in case you need an assignment again. Do not throw anything out! If you want to raise your grade, you can correct your work and turn it back in.

GRADING

The system: I grade using points. Each hour of work is worth about 10 *points*.

20% of your grade will be from points earned on *practice work*

30% of your grade will be from points earned on *labs*

50% of your grade will come from points earned by proving what you have learned on *assessments* that are short answer questions or quizzes

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

Letter grades: A—90%-100%, B—80-89%, C—70-79%, D—60-69%, F—below 60%.

Posting grades: From the *front office*, your family 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 eat....

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 home using:

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 for all of your classes 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.