

Vista Middle School 2016-2017

Mr. Hamilton

8th Grade Science

lhamilton@lcps.net

8th Grade Science Syllabus

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to 8th Grade Science! I am an eighth year teacher, holding a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology degree and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from New Mexico State University. I have acquired my knowledge and experience in education through numerous undergraduate and graduate courses, Professional Development Workshops, collaboration with colleagues, professional readings, and of course, my last 7 years of teaching.

As you have high expectations of me to effectively guide your student through this school year, I also have them of myself and my students. This syllabus is meant to inform you about what to expect for this class. After reading this together (parent/guardian and student), please sign and return it to class within one week.

Mission Statement:

My mission is to provide a unique, supportive learning experience for all students which will be academically challenging, interdisciplinary in nature, and will reflect the values of the local community and society as a whole. Students will be encouraged to develop individually while learning the skills to recognize their own self-worth, and to become life-long learners and responsible members of society.

General Goals:

I would like for **EVERY** student to enjoy their final year of Middle School in a setting of learning, exploration, growing as individuals, and displaying virtuous behavior at school and at home. I aim to provide a safe, enjoyable and equitable learning environment where every student will move toward functioning at their full potential as a student, and as a person.

Together, we are better. Respect for each individual is expected. Positive problem solving contributes to a positive classroom culture for students, staff and families. Honest and frequent feedback between home and school is an essential. Each child is viewed as a unique individual with unique strengths and needs. Safety and the well-being of students is my highest priority.

Instructor Information and Communication:

Please feel free to contact me at any point during the school year with any questions or concerns. The following means will be used to keep you informed of your students' progress in Mathematics:

- Bi-Weekly progress reports will be sent home
- Access to online grade book via www.parentvue.lcps.k12.nm.us
- Email: lhamilton@lcps.net
- Phone calls/meetings when deemed necessary or requested by parent/guardian

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Materials Required:

- 2 Composition Notebooks
- Pencils/pens
- Erasers
- Hand-Held Sharpener
- Ruler
- Colored Pencils and/or Markers
- 4X4 or centimeter graph paper

The following items are constantly needed in the classroom. If you would like to donate one or more of the items, please feel free to do so.

- Disinfecting Wipes
- Dry Erase Markers
- Boxes of facial tissue

Classroom Expectations:

1. Be on time, in your seat and ready to work!
2. Respect our school, our classroom, yourself and others.
3. Be prepared for class by having all necessary materials and assignments complete.
4. Work hard, take risks, make mistakes, ask questions, participate and expect the best!
5. Leave the excuses outside the classroom.

Behavior:

Proper behavior will be expected at all times! Each student shall abide by the district, school and classroom rules put forth. Misbehavior, or any act that is disruptive, disrespectful, or harmful to **anyone in any way, at any time, will not be tolerated.** With a personal desire, and assistance from others, every student is capable of living up to the expectancy of behaving properly.

Grading Policy:

I have high expectations for all students and expect everyone's personal best, and I believe all students can reach their desired grade through hard work! The grading scale is as follows:

- A: 100-90%
- B: 89-80%
- C: 79-70%
- D: 69-60%
- F: 59% and below

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Curriculum:

The curriculum taught will be based on the Next Generation Science Standards and through Project-Based, Student-Centered Learning. The Eighth Grade Science Standards are very rigorous, and require dedication and perseverance. Students are expected to give a whole hearted effort to learning, and push through the process even though the standards may be difficult. Project-Based Learning is one avenue that will be taken to address these standards.

A full version of the standards is available online at <http://www.nextgenscience.org/>.

Textbook: I will maintain a classroom set of the text book, *Glencoe Physical Science*, for classroom use only.

Homework and Assignments:

Assignments:

Students are expected to take full responsibility for completing all assignments, and turning them in on time. Any assignment that is "missing" will result in a zero, and in most cases will not be allowed to make up. All assignments are expected to have the student's first and last name, the date, a heading and any other specifics given at the time. Each assignment should be a PROFESSIONAL document and free from drawings, wrinkles, tears, stains, etc. If the assignment is not presentable, it will be handed back to the student to be redone. If the assignment does not have a name written on it, it will unfortunately be thrown away. I encourage all students to take pride in their work and to turn in each one of their assignments clean, legible, on time, and complete.

For those who are participating in extracurricular activities such as sports, music, clubs, etc. I highly encourage you to set aside a non-conflicting time for homework and studies. Practice, games, recitals, etc. are not acceptable excuses for not completing homework, or other school-related projects. Please encourage your student to make every effort possible to excel in school and the extracurricular activities they take on.

Homework:

Homework will mainly consist of any unfinished class work, a few on-going assignments, and projects.

- Unfinished Class Work: Student will be given time to work on assignments in class. However, some days more time is allotted than others, and in most cases, students do not utilize class time wisely. There will be days when a student will need to complete their assignment at home and turn it in the following day, or on the given due date.

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- On-going Assignments: Each student will be required to maintain their individual "I.A.N.." This InterActive Notebook will be graded randomly throughout the course of the school year for professionalism, organization, and academic progress.
- Projects: Students will be given time to work on projects in class. However, some research/projects will need to be completed at home in order to meet given due dates.

ORGANIZATION AND PROFESSIONALISM WILL BE EXPECTED!

Late Work:

Students are given ample time to complete work in class but for those who may need more time, they may come in during tutoring hours. Students are still required to turn in work at the end of class whether they have completed the assignment or not. Any student wishing to take work home must make arrangements with me first if they wish to receive credit for the work. This will help ensure that all students are given the same opportunities to complete work and that they do not receive zeros any for missing assignments.

Absences/Make-up Work:

It is the students' responsibility to get work that they have missed and turn it in within 5 days of returning to school. When students return from being absent, they will need to check the classroom calendar to see what they have missed, ask me for any assignments/handouts, and they may get any missed notes from a peer. Once you complete this process, I will be happy to help you with any questions that you have. It is the student's responsibility to check on any missed work and to make-up all learning and assignments on time.

Snacks and Drinks:

Healthy snacks (such as fruit, vegetables, crackers, snack bars, pretzels, etc.) and water in a CLEAR bottle with lid will be allowed inside the classroom. Gum and small hard candy (Cinnamon Disks, Jolly Ranchers, etc.) will be allowed until it becomes a distraction or a nuisance to the learning environment.

Personal Devices:

Cell phones and other devices will be turned off/silenced and put away during class unless given permission by the classroom teacher to use the device for educational purposes only. These devices will be confiscated if rules are violated. Rules of phone, music players, etc. use are expected to be followed and as always, **the owner holds full responsibility for the loss or damage.**

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Pacing Guide:

1st Nine Weeks: Chemical Reactions: Structure and Properties of Matter, Chemical Reactions, Developing Possible Solutions, and Optimizing the Design Solution. Forces of Interactions: Types of Interactions.

2nd Nine Weeks: Forces and Interactions: Types of Interactions. Energy: Definitions of Energy, Conservation of Energy Transfer, Relationship Between Energy and Forces, Defining and Delimiting an Engineering Problem, Developing Possible Solutions.

3rd Nine Weeks: Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation: Wave Properties, Electromagnetic Radiation, Information Technologies and Instrumentation

4th Nine Weeks: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Interdependent Relationships, Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience, Biodiversity and Humans, Developing Possible Solutions. Human Impacts: Natural Hazards, Human Impact on Earth Systems.

Final Note:

I am very excited to begin our joint effort in providing the best educational experience for your child. I look forward to knowing and understanding her/him and I will do my best in performing practices and providing opportunities I deem effective and beneficial for your student to grow. I encourage anything you can offer and welcome any comments or concerns at any time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT

I, _____, have read Mr. Hamilton's entire syllabus.
(Print student's full name)

(Student's signature)

Date: _____

(Parent/Guardian's signature)

Date: _____

Thank You! Please return this page by Tuesday, August 19, 2016.