

BELL Academy
2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR
GRADE 8
Class Procedures and Policies
Mr. Anthony Fini
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"Science does not know its debt to imagination."
~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Welcome to Grade 8!

I look forward to having a fun and enlightening year with all of you.

Goal

Students are expected to cover a variety of topics in Grade 8 science. These may include, but are not limited to, Newton's Laws of Motion, rotation/revolution, evolution, ecology, environmental science, classification, genetics and development, review of scientific method and lab techniques.

School Supplies

By Friday (9/16/16), please be prepared to come to class with the following:

- Blue/black pens and #2 pencils (several of each)
- Green spiral Notebook
- 2 folders
 - Folder 1 will be used for any handouts
 - Folder 2 will remain in class to keep a record of your labs to be submitted to the state (Must be **GREEN**)
- Tissues
- Paper Towels
- Hand sanitizer Wipes

Optional Supplies:

- Colored pencils or markers, scissors – used during some lab work for graphing or color-coding diagrams. I can provide some but you may want your own set.

Basic Classroom Rules

1. The lab can be great place to learn, but can also be dangerous. No horseplay, fighting, or intentional misuse/damage of equipment. **Always listen to instructions the first time when given.**
2. Do not have any electronics (i.e. cell phones, iPods, etc) or food out during class – this is for your own safety as your classroom is a science lab.
3. Respect is mutual. Raise your hand if you would like to contribute something to class and I will call on you. When others are speaking in the room, it is your job to listen and wait for your turn to speak. Refrain from using inappropriate language.
4. You must **earn** the grades that you want. This means submitting homework in a timely manner, active participation in class and lab work, keeping an accurate notebook, and punctual class attendance. Also, integrity is a must in this class. I do not tolerate cheating and it will result in an immediate call to your parents and school administration will be notified.

5. Respect the classroom that you are in. This classroom is your home. Leave it neater than it was before you came in -- especially after performing lab work. Keep classroom aisles clear of possessions.

6. You are assigned a seat in the beginning of the year. You are responsible for being in this seat until I reassign seats.

Grading Policy

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35% Exams

25% Projects and Labs

15% Quizzes

15% Homework

10% Class work

Jupiter Grades

Jupiter Grades is our new online grading system. All grades you will receive on tests, quizzes, homework, and labs will be posted on a regular basis. Please keep yourself updated regularly in order to stay informed with your class grade and to monitor your progress throughout the marking period. In addition, all grades will be a raw score. For example, if a test has 35 questions then the maximum a student may receive on the unit test is a 35. (Each question is worth one point unless noted or spoken about)

Homework Policy

Homework will be assigned daily. I reserve the right to collect homework on random days (so always be prepared). Also, there will be random pop HW quizzes. (Be prepared by doing your HW when it is assigned)

You are responsible for:

- Making sure all homework is completed neatly and on time.
- Making sure all pages are correctly ordered and stapled together if there is more than one page
- Making sure all homework is labeled with your name, date, and class number.

Full credit will only be issued for homework submitted on time (on the day it is due). You may earn only half credit for homework up to one day late. By the second day late, homework will be marked missing.

Labs

Labs account for 25% of the total quarter grade. Therefore, it is crucial to participate in lab work and to make the best effort to complete it in a timely manner. **Each student is responsible for handing in his or her own individual lab write-up, even if the lab work was conducted with another student.**

Late labs WILL BE ISSUED A ZERO. Please see me if you have ESL services for modified due dates.

If an absence occurred on a lab day, the student is still required to complete the lab. This may be fulfilled by making an appointment to use the lab setup. **Lab setups for each specific lab are only available for ONE WEEK following the day the lab was administered – the lab is issued a zero if not submitted at this point.**

Test Policy

A quiz or unit test is given every week- two weeks to students in order to provide constant feedback on academic progress and comprehension. **Students will need to use a separate piece of paper to submit their answers. We will cover how to organize and submit test answers together.** You will NOT be provided a writing utensil to take your test, so ALWAYS provide your own. You are responsible for being prepared for the exam on the day it is announced to be – students are always given at least a week of notice for unit tests. **If you are absent on the day of a quiz or exam, it must be taken the day you return, during class or before / after school. Please see me regarding excessive absences prior to a test.**

You are also responsible for keeping your eyes on your own paper and maintaining a quiet work environment during exam situations. Your desk and surrounding areas should be cleared of all materials.

Notebook Check

Notebooks are an important reference tool used to understand what was covered in class. Your notebook MUST be in class EVERY day and up to date. In your notebook should be the following:

- Date of notes taken, clearly labeled at the start of the entry
- Do Now activity, at the beginning of each set of notes
- Your OWN legible and complete notes

If you are absent for any reason from class (illness, family emergency, etc.), it is your responsibility to obtain the notes from another student in the class as soon as possible, including any missed Do Now activities.

Science Project

NYS requires all students to complete a Science Exit Project by the end of the year. This is a requirement for completion and graduation of Grade 8. All students will have to perform a scientific experiment using the scientific method we will cover in class. Students must design a project, perform the experiment, collect data, and interpret data by writing a conclusion. We will cover this in more detail after we review the scientific method in class.

Absences

Attendance is important to maintaining good performance in class. Unexcused absences and tardiness will not be tolerated. All episodes of tardiness must be accompanied by a late pass signed by another staff member or administrator. A pattern of tardiness will result in parental contact, and subsequent disciplinary action. If you are absent, you are responsible for all missed work, lecture notes, and missed tests / quizzes.

Bathroom breaks

Leaving the room for bathroom or nurse should be kept to a minimum as you are responsible for class material missed while out of the room. Please refrain from leaving the classroom while instructions are being given. If you have an emergency and must go, please sign out at the door with name, and time leaving/returning.

Extra Credit

Once a semester I will give the opportunity for students to do extra credit by submitting a report on a current event in science. These can be found on the internet or newspapers. If a student does not have access to either, these can be found in the school library. **The grade you receive on this extra credit report can increase the lowest quiz by up to 3 pts.** Details will follow regarding the precise format of this assignment.

2016-17 GRADE 8 SCIENCE CLASSROOM CONTRACT

Please sign and return this part of the contract to me. Thank you.

STUDENT

I, _____, have fully read the attached information about Mr. Fini's classroom and understand that I am responsible for observing the policies and procedures discussed.

Signed _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN

I, 1) _____ and 2) _____, have fully read the attached information about Mr. Fini's classroom and will encourage the student to observe the policies and procedures discussed.

Signed 1) _____ and 2) _____

Relationship to student _____

Contact phone numbers: 1) _____ (day) _____ (evening) 2) _____ (day) _____ (evening)

E-mail Address: 1) _____
2) _____

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I know that you are busy but...

I have a request/assignment just for you. Please tell me about your child. Anything you feel is important will help me better teach your child this year. Each child is special and unique in his/her own way. No one knows this better than you. Please share their likes/dislikes/fears/hopes/dreams/past successes/past failures... anything and everything!

I would appreciate it if you could have your child turn this assignment in to me on Friday, September 16. However, I understand you are busy; therefore, I will accept these any time during the month of September.

This assignment is not graded; your child will not be penalized in any way if you do not send in this writing assignment. However, I hope you will choose to complete this for me and for your child. Anything you share with me will be held in the strictest confidence. I will never share it with anyone else without your permission.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Mr. Anthony Fini