



INVESTIGATIVE SCIENCE SYLLABUS 2019-2020

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Room: Science Lab J217

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Course Description

Are you ready for an adventure? Investigative Science gives us the opportunity to cover topics in all three areas of science so we will be doing many different things this year. You will experience how scientists apply processing skills and methods of inquiry through exposure to the growth of scientific information over time and how it is relevant to today's world in labs, graphic organizers, demonstrations, and readings. In our journey this year, we will be exploring the following topics:

Semester 1

Skills of Science
Astronomy
Properties of Matter
Conservation of Energy
Chemical Reactions
Geochemical Cycles

Semester 2

Weather/Climate
Geochemical Cycles
Energy in Ecosystems (Food Webs/Chains)
Levels of Organization
Populations (Carrying Capacity/Succession)
Genetics (Invasive Species/Selection)

Recommended Materials

These are the materials that will help you be successful in Investigative Science!!! Students should have these supplies everyday. If there is any difficulty obtaining these materials, please let your teacher know as soon as possible.

- 1 Large spiral bound notebook *****NOT COMPOSITION NOTEBOOK*****
- 1 section in a 3-ring binder labeled for science WITH POCKETS
- Plenty of pens, pencils and erasers
- Four-function Calculator (Stand alone! NOT IN A CELL PHONE or on an iTouch!!!)
- Student planner or agenda

Grading Procedures

I do not weight my grades. Grades will be based on a point system and include the following categories: homework/classwork, tests, labs, and quizzes. Quarter grades will be calculated from cumulative points per quarter. Semester grades will be calculated with each quarter being 40% and the final being the remaining 20%. Letter grades are assigned based on the scale listed below.

Grading Scale

A = 90% - 100%
B = 80% - 89%
C = 70% - 79%
D = 60% - 69%
F = 59% - 0%

Semester Grade Calculator

(Quarter 1 Percent) x 40% = X
(Quarter 2 Percent) x 40% = Y
(Final Exam Percent) x 20% = Z

Semester Grade = X+Y+Z

Students and parent/guardians can access grades through infinite campus. Students' information is only accessible by using an individualized password assigned by the school. Parents may contact office personnel/counselor for their child's password.

Classroom Expectations and Consequences

Classroom Expectations

1. **Model Strong Character:** Be respectful of yourself, your classmates, your teacher and property.
2. **Do Your Best:** Do your own work! Don't give up! Try every problem. Ask for help when you need it.
3. **Influence Those Around You:** Be prepared for class when the bell rings. Listen to and follow instructions the *first time* they are given. Be on task! At the end of class, remain seated when the bell rings until you are dismissed.
4. Absolutely no gum, food, drink (except water), or hats allowed in the classroom.
5. Cell phones or any other electronic devices are allowed in the classroom but may not be out during instruction unless directed by the teacher and used as an educational tool.
6. Profanity will not be tolerated.
7. **Diversity Statement:** All individuals have a right to an educational environment free from bias, prejudice and bigotry. As members of the Casteel High School educational community, students are expected to refrain from participating in acts of harassment that are designed to demean another student's race, gender, ethnicity, religious preference, disability or sexual orientation.
8. **Conference period:** Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:26 - 9:57. Students will not leave conference period classroom without a pass signed by a teacher. This time will be a mandatory study period. Students are expected to bring something to work on during this time.

***** All school rules and consequences in the student handbook will be enforced*****

Consequences for Being Late (Tardy)

- 1st - Verbal reminder
- 2nd - Verbal reminder
- 3rd - Verbal reminder / parent contact
- 4th and more Tardies - Administrative referral

** It is the student's responsibility to get to class on time*

Consequences for Behavior

- First Instance - verbal reminder*
 - Second Instance - student contract*
 - Third Instance - parent/guardian contact*
 - Fourth Instance - Administrative referral
- *Depending upon the severity of the behavior, Administrative referral may be prior to the fourth instance.*

Consequences for ALL Electronic Devices

**Teacher reserves the right to ask student to put any electronic device away, out of sight. If the student fails to do so there will be a referral sent to administration for defiant behavior. I only ask that students be respectful to me and their learning time.*

Class Policies

Absences and Make-up Work:

- It is the student's responsibility to obtain any missed work and notes. In case of an absence, check with Mrs. Kaplan or with a classmate to see what notes/assignments were missed. Assignments and notes will be posted on my teacher website/google classroom.
- **If a long-term assignment has been assigned prior to the absence, the due date stands.**
- **Students have the same number of days that the student was excused-absent to get missing work in without penalty. Mrs. Kaplan reserves the right to not accept missing work when the student is un-excused absent.**
- **After 11 absences a student may be dropped from the class.** School related absences (i.e. sporting events, club events, and/or field trips) do not count towards the 11 absences.

Late Work:

- I will accept late work one day after its due date for 50% credit. Any work turned in after that will result in a 0. *(Please always communicate with me and I can bend on this policy)*

Tutoring: If a student would like extra help on an assignment or is having difficulty with the current topic, s/he may come in for tutoring before school (7am), after school (2:25-2:45), or during conference. Tutoring is available outside normal available hours by appointment ONLY so see the teacher to schedule a time and date. All you need to do is ask!

Science Lab book: Each student will be required to keep all work for this class in a spiral bound notebook and a section in a 3-ring binder. The science lab book (spiral bound notebook) will be used daily. The lab book will be checked for organization and completeness using a rubric. It is the student's responsibility to keep their lab books current.

TOP 6 TIPS FOR SUCCESS

1. Ask if you don't understand something.
I am here to help you learn. If you are having trouble with something, please let me know so I can help you.
2. Do all of your assignments and turn them in on time.
Even a few incomplete assignments can impact your mastery of a topic covered on a test and therefore your test grade.
3. Review notes and vocabulary several times each week.
Reviewing your notes and vocabulary on a regular basis will help you remember the material better than cramming before tests.
4. Don't miss class unless you have to.
People who miss fewer classes typically do better than those who are absent more often. Try not to schedule appointments on days you have Investigative Science.
5. Come to class on time and be prepared.
We have a lot to learn so I will be teaching from the beginning of class to the end. If you come late you will miss information.
6. You get out what you put in.
If you come to class to learn and you try, you will learn something. If you come to class and don't put an honest effort into your education, you will not learn as much as you could. Always remember you have the power to learn.

***Return this paper with signatures completed on both sides, if electronic signature was not completed ***

INVESTIGATIVE SCIENCE

2018-2019

Syllabus Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the class syllabus for Investigative Science. I understand if I have any questions or concerns regarding the course grade, content or policies that I should contact Mrs. Kaplan immediately.

Student Printed Name

Student Signed Name

Period

Parent Printed Name

Parent Signed Name

Photo Release

Throughout the course of the year your student will participate in activities such as science research presentations and laboratory activities that we would like to document and share with you via the class website. Thank you for your continued support.

_____ Permission authorized Signature _____ Date _____

_____ I do not authorize permission Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/ Guardian Contact Information and Preferences (please print clearly)

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

My preferred method of contact is through email for communication with parents/guardians.

___ Yes, the teachers MAY contact me via email regarding my son or daughter.

___ No, contact me via phone. Best hours to reach: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Investigative Science Lab Safety Contract

Investigative Science is a hands-on laboratory class. However, science activities may have potential hazards. We will use some equipment chemicals that may be dangerous if not handled properly. Safety in the science classroom is an important part of the scientific process. The rules listed below must be followed at all times. Additional safety instructions will be given for each activity. No science student will be allowed to participate in science activities until both student and a parent/guardian have signed this contract.

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the lab. Horseplay, practical jokes and pranks will not be tolerated.
2. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. Ask your teacher if you do not understand the instructions.
3. Do not touch any equipment, supplies or other materials in the lab until instructed to do so.
4. Only perform experiments approved by your teacher.
5. Be prepared for your work in the lab. Read all procedures thoroughly before beginning the lab.
6. Never eat, drink, chew gum or taste anything in the science room.
7. Keep hands away from face, eyes and mouth while using lab materials. Wash your hands with soap and water when you are finished with the lab.
8. Follow your teacher's instructions for disposal of waste materials.
9. Clean all work areas and equipment. If you finish early, help clean up common areas. Nobody leaves the lab until the entire lab space is clean and all materials are accounted for.
10. Never remove chemicals, equipment or other supplies from the lab unless instructed to do so.
11. Consider all chemicals used in the lab to be dangerous. Do not touch, smell or taste any chemicals unless specifically instructed to do so.
12. Treat all preserved specimens and dissecting supplies with care and respect.
 - a. Do not remove preserved specimens from the science room.
 - b. Use scalpels, scissors and other sharp objects only as directed.
 - c. Never cut any material towards you – always cut away from your body.
 - d. Report any cut or scratch to the teacher immediately.
13. Report any accident, injury or hazardous conditions to the teacher immediately.
14. Do not handle broken glassware with your bare hands.
15. Always carry a microscope with both hands. Hold the arm with one hand and the base with the other hand.
16. Dress properly – long hair must be tied back, no dangling jewelry, no loose or baggy clothing. Wear aprons and goggles when instructed to do so.
17. Learn where the safety equipment is and how to use it. Know where the exits are located and what to do in case of an emergency or fire drill.
18. Be aware of what is going on in your experiment at all times. Do not wander around the room, distract other students or interfere with the experiments of other students. Stay on task!
19. Examine glassware before each use. Never use chipped or cracked glassware.
20. Do not open storage cabinets without permission from the teacher.

Failure to comply with lab safety rules will result in removal from the lab!

I, _____, have read and understand each of the safety rules. I agree to follow them to ensure not only my own safety, but also the safety of my classmates. I understand that if I do not follow all the rules and safety precautions that I will be removed from the lab and have to make it up outside of class time.

Student Signature

Date