



## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade --- Life Science

Mrs. Forst

### Teaching Philosophy:

I believe that the primary goal for any teacher, at any grade level, in any discipline, is to help foster the joy of learning. We need to equip our students with the necessary tools to think, reason, communicate and plan. When we, as educators, are successful in this task, we have not taught our students a single isolated concept, or idea; but rather, how to make connections and discoveries for life.

In the area of teaching science, I believe that we need to give you, the student, a variety of ways to learn scientific concepts, and make connections through a scientific approach. It is crucial that we, your teachers, give ample opportunities for you to use your God-given problem-solving skills, to work cooperatively, to communicate appropriately, and support your findings, based on scientific inquiry and scientific reasoning. Allowing you to discover the beautiful world our Lord has created, through a scientific approach, will help all of us to appreciate the wonders of HIS creation.

### Contact Information:

Mrs. Sharon Forst - St. Martin's School  
507 - 452 - 6928 ext. 122 (School) until 4:30 p.m.  
507 - 474 - 9597 (Home) until 8:00 p.m.

### Grading and Assessment Criteria:

The assessments used in Life Science are made up of the following components:

**PORTFOLIO** - You will be required to have all information for the class, and all work kept in a separate three-ring notebook for Science. This will serve as your portfolio. At the end of every quarter, it will be collected and graded for the organization, neatness and contents of the portfolio. The items cited below are some of the components of the portfolio. **(10% of final grade)**

**HOMEWORK QUIZZES** - Weekly, or near weekly, you will be taking a homework quiz based on the daily assignments given throughout the prior week. Daily assignments will be checked, and you will have an opportunity to make corrections, ask questions and rework your mistakes PRIOR to the taking of the homework quiz. The questions on the homework quiz are the same as the daily work. This grading structure is designed to help you understand errors, practice your skills, and learn some organizational skills along the way. All assignments are to be kept, and organized, in your portfolio. **(20% of final grade)**

**QUARTER PROJECTS** - Throughout each quarter, you will be conducting some labs that involve experimenting, analyzing and drawing conclusions using the scientific process. You might be conducting research, or analyzing data and drawing conclusions. These assignments will also be kept in your portfolio. **(20% of final grade)**

**CHAPTER QUIZZES AND TESTS** - Chapter quizzes will be given based on content material presented in class, or in the text. Most of the information can be found in your skeleton notes. Tests are given at the end of a unit, with a class test review given the day prior to a test. **(Chapter Quizzes - 20% of final grade ... Tests - 30% of final grade)**

### **LATE AND INCOMPLETE WORK:**

**LATE AND INCOMPLETE WORK** - Incomplete work will be collected from you at the beginning of class, and given back to you at the end of class for you to complete on your own. It will then become your responsibility to make corrections before the homework quiz is given. A 10% grade reduction on the homework quiz will result for every incomplete or late assignment that the homework quiz is measuring. You might be asked for a parent signature on incomplete homework or a homework quiz that reflects a lowered grade because of incomplete or late work.

### **EXTRA CREDIT:**

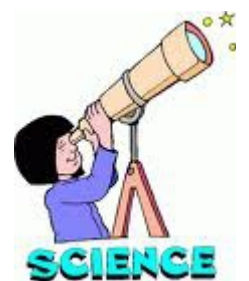
Extra Credit is not offered. Quizzes and tests may have bonus questions to improve your grade on the given assessment.

### **DAILY PLANNER:**

I will ask that you record your assignments in your daily planner. Assignments will be posted daily on the assignment board in Mr. Jacobson's classroom. The planner will be used to communicate concerns, suggestions, and improvements for each of you. Please have your parents check your planner.

### **ABSENCES:**

If you are absent, your parent(s) will need to report your absence to the school office. I will then be aware of the absence. Make-up work will be sent home, upon request, with information on the specific assignment. Make-up work will follow school guidelines - one day of extra time for each day absent.



**I am looking forward to a great year with each of you. I hope to foster the joy of scientific inquiry within each of you - May God bless all of us on this journey through HIS creation.**