

BACK TO SCHOOL!

Gaspar De Portola
Middle School
Mr. Bridges - Room 335
8th Grade Science
2017 - 2018

Mr. Bridges' Classroom Syllabus and Parent/Student/Teacher Contract

Communication

Hello and welcome to Mr. Bridges 8th grade Science class! You can also call me "Mr. B" if that's easier. My goal is to establish a fun, safe, and organized learning environment that will allow all students to thrive in my class. I strongly believe that open communication between teachers and parents is the key to a successful student. Please feel free to call or email me anytime during the school year. My contact information is...

Contact me at
MBRIDGES@SANDI.NET
858-496-8080 EXT. 4335

Note to the Parent(s): This syllabus will explain important information regarding your child's Science class and how they will be assessed. The following information is in place to ensure your child stays safe and organized in my classroom. All expectations will be discussed with your child; however, it is equally important that you review the information about classrooms policies and procedures with your child to ensure there is **complete understanding** of what is expected on a daily basis.

Here are the science topics to cover this year:

- ✓ Science Practice Skills and Experimenting
- ✓ Forces and Motion (Physics)
- ✓ Earth's place in the Solar System and Universe
- ✓ Geologic Timescale and Biological Unity & Diversity
- ✓ Waves, Technology, and Sustaining Local and Global Biodiversity
- ✓ (and hopefully some) Chemistry and the Periodic Table Elements

Coming to School Prepared

The staff at De Portola Middle School holds ALL students to high expectations. Students are expected to arrive to school prepared to learn by doing the following:

- Make it to school and **class on time**
- Bring a **positive attitude** about learning
- Bring necessary school supplies including **Science Notebook, Agenda, pencils, assignments, headphones, brains, etc.**

Classroom Website
www.mrbridges.weebly.com

Here is where you can find out what is going on in the classroom along with document links and reminders.

Online Textbook Website
www.deportolascience.weebly.com

Here you can access all 3 science textbooks. Traditionally each book applied to different grade levels. However, now that science standards have been integrated, each textbook applies to all grade level sciences.

Online Gradebook

De Portola Middle is taking student attendance and recording grades on one website called PowerSchool. I keep the gradebook updated and post assignments prior to their due dates for awareness. This site can be accessed by both student and parents by logging on to: <http://powerschool.sandi.net>

"An easy way to stay one step ahead with your child's grades, assignments, attendance, and you can view academic feedback." - says everybody

Mr. Bridges Classroom Syllabus page 2

Technology Use

It is extremely important to have internet access outside of school, either at home or the public library. My classroom is equipped with two mobile computer carts containing "iPad 2" and "Chromebooks" for each student to use in class (when necessary). Computers and the internet will play a major role in classroom assignments, discussions, homework, projects, research, and quizzes in class and at home. Students are responsible for their actions and misuse of technology will result in the necessary consequences. A technology contract must be signed by both parent and student.

Grading Scale

Citizenship grade is a reflection of a student's contribution to class and their environment such as behavior, leadership, character, group work, etc...

Academic Grades are calculated by using a weighted percentage scale for the following categories:

Classwork	=	30%
Unit Exams	=	20%
* Projects	=	20%
Quizzes	=	10%
** Lab/Class Participation	=	10%
Homework	=	10%
		100%

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

* *Advanced Science students have a different grade scale to incorporate science fair project for Semester 1 only.*

** *Participation points: Student receives daily recognition for being a productive member of the class (on time, prepared, polite, proper Lab Behavior, equipment clean-up, group participation etc...) During Lab when equipment is out, disruptions to the group, experiment, or class will result in lost points for individual or possibly the entire group. Broken equipment due to horseplay will result in lost points & sitting out of future labs until behavior is corrected.*

Homework and Make-ups

All assignments not completed in class become homework unless teacher explains otherwise. All classwork assignments will get graded during periodic notebook checks so get it done a.s.a.p. Your child will be given homework no more than 2 times per week. Homework is due the following day unless otherwise stated. **Typically NO LATE HOMEWORK IS ACCEPTED because we go over it in class that moment** (HW = 10%). Students may be required to take their science notebooks home, access the internet or textbook PDF to complete their homework. Students **MUST** be responsible to bring their science notebook back to class the next day. **NO EXCUSES!!** Absent students are responsible for all missed work. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed. You will have 1 extra day to complete missing work for each day you were absent (excused) unless discussed.

Classroom Expectations and Consequences

Expectations:

1. Be on time, prepared to work (notebook, pencil...)
2. Respect the classroom supplies and equipment and the people in it (especially your lab group).
3. **DO NOT** Talk during instruction (Teacher Time!)
4. Follow instructions the first time
5. Raise your hands...do not shout out answers
6. Be prepared to answer during discussion
7. **NO FOOD** (fruit/veggies ok) **OR DRINK** (H₂O ok).
NO HATS, PHONES, HEADPHONES, HOODIES
8. Use **PENCIL ONLY** (unless OK'd by teacher)
9. No photos or recordings (audio and video) **unless** approved by Mr. B.
9. Original work only, group work is different from copying from another student. Use your judgement.

Consequences:

Let's not waste everyone's time with nonsense.

If I have to call you out...

- **One time** = verbal warning
- **Two times or Foul Language, or Disrespect**
= 2 minutes after class for clean-up duty
- **Three times** = Refocus outside/Think Sheet
- **Four times** = referral/parent call/visit to office

Additional Information

8th Grade Physical Science – Mr. Bridges

Hello parents! Communication and understanding of classroom expectations plays a crucial role in your students' success. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at **858-496-8080 ext. 4335**, email me at mbridges@sandi.net, or simply stop by **Room 335** before or after school.

Student Name

Last: _____ First: _____ Period # _____

Parent/Guardian Name

Last: _____ First: _____

x _____ (Student Signature) (make sure parent or guardian signs below)

x _____ (Parent/Guardian Signature) I have read the syllabus containing class policies, expectations and guidelines for Mr. Bridges' science class. **I am aware of the rules and consequences.**

Contact Preferences: Home: (_____) _____

Cell: (_____) _____

Email: _____ @ _____

Primary Language Spoken at Home: _____

Do you need a translator for parent meetings and/or home phone calls? Yes _____ No _____

Would you be interesting in chaperoning possible field trips? Yes _____ No _____

*Do you have a computer at home? Yes _____ No _____

*Do you have the internet? Yes _____ No _____

***Access to the internet will play a major role in your child's success at De Portola Middle School.** Internet access will allow you, as a parent/guardian, to track student progress and attendance, access the textbook(s) online, and communicate with teacher(s). If there is no access at home, please allow your child to use a family friend/relative's computer or access the public library for internet use. Please monitor and speak to your child about appropriate use of the internet as I will be doing the same in the classroom.

STAY INVOLVED...ONLINE GRADEBOOK PARENT LOG-IN:



<http://powerschool.sandi.net>

CLASS MATERIALS NEEDED FOR SCIENCE CLASS

To create great work requires some extra materials. Below you will find a list of materials that will make your child's classroom experience that much better. I have classroom supplies and share with those students who do not have their own. I am not requiring you to purchase anything from the list below; however, I believe that having your own set of tools generates greater ownership in the work you create.

✓	Material List	Reason / Uses in the classroom
	<u>Colored Pencils</u>	Pack of 12 colored pencils should last your child the entire year. We create a lot of diagrams and visuals throughout the year.
	<u>Ear Buds</u>	An inexpensive pair to be used with the iPads and Chromebooks to view videos privately. For educational use in the classroom only.
	<u>Pencils</u>	Pencils are used daily, a pencil should last a student a few days up to a week. I will provide a pencil if a student is unprepared, but at the expense of the students participation grade.
	<u>Glue Stick and/or clear Tape</u>	Used to affix information into your child's Science Notebook such as data tables, graphs, notes, homework, etc...
	<u>Flash Drive USB Memory Stick</u>	VERY USEFUL FOR <u>ADVANCED SCIENCE STUDENTS</u> TO SAVE THEIR SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT DOCUMENTS. Can be used to save a digital copy of the Science Textbooks, save and transfer files between home and school. Will be helpful in other classes too.