

BACK TO SCHOOL!

Gaspar De Portola
Middle School
Mr. Bridges - Room 335
8th Grade Science
Semester 1 (2018-19)

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

Fresh Start!

Hello and welcome to Mr. Bridges 8th grade Science class! You can also call me "Mr. B" if you would like. We have a great year planned for you so be excited! As for this classroom, my goal is to maintain a fun, safe, and organized learning environment that will allow all students to thrive in my class. As 8th graders, the reality is that High School is only a year away so it is important that you use your time and experiences to showcase your best attributes! Work hard always and I am certain you will succeed in my class!

Contact Info:
mbridges@sandi.net
858-496-8080 EXT. 4335

Note to the Parent(s): This syllabus explains the important information regarding your child's Science class and how they will be assessed throughout the year. The following information is in place to ensure each student stays organized and prepared in my classroom. All expectations will be discussed with your child; however, it is equally important that you review the information about classroom policies and the grading scale to ensure there is **complete understanding** of what is expected on a daily basis. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Here are the science topics to cover this year:

We are now implementing the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). We will be exploring the topics listed below through a variety of hands-on labs and experiments, projects, group discussions, use of technology and tools, collaborations, etc... with the intention to capture your attention and see the world through a different lens!

Units

- Science Process Skills and Experimenting
- Engineering and the Design Process
- Forces and Motion (Physics)
- Earth's place in the Solar System and Universe
- Geologic Timescale and Biological Diversity
- Chemistry and the Periodic Table Elements

Coming to Class Prepared

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

- Make it to school and **class on time and quietly enter the classroom**
- **Complete Assignments** fully with grade level **effort or above always!**
- Bring necessary school supplies including **Science Notebook, pencils, assignments**
- Prepare to listen and follow instructions

Online Resources and Links:

Classroom Website
www.mrbridges.weebly.com

Students will receive instructions or links for selected assignments.

Online Textbook Website
www.deportolascience.weebly.com

Brain POP: www.brainpop.com

Login: deportola Password: thanksasb

Online Gradebook

De Portola Middle is taking student attendance and recording grades on PowerSchool. I keep the gradebook updated and post assignments in advance as a reminder. Feedback is also provided about assignments in regards to late or missing status. This site can be accessed by both student and parents by logging on to: <http://powerschool.sandi.net>

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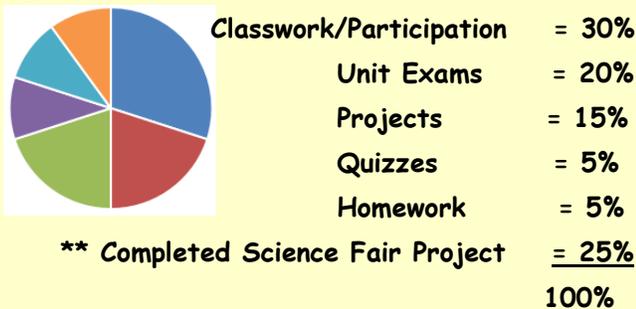
Technology Use

When the Chromebook or iPad is being used, the content on your screen and browsers must be related to the assignment given. The only non-related browser is for a music outlet only when permitted by the teacher. The phone is not an option for music and headphones are not to be plugged in to your phone. If you are off task and not using the computer for the purpose of the assignment, I can/will take your computer privileges away. If music is consuming your time on task, you will lose music privileges while on the computer.

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:



Final Grade Scale

90-100% =A, 80-89% =B, 70-79% =C

60- 69% =D, 0-59% =F

**** For Semester 1, all 8th Grade Advanced Science Students are required to complete a science fair project for this class. You will have the entire first semester to complete your project and it will reflect your semester 1 grade only. The project will be explained further in great detail. Semester 2 grade categories will be adjusted to reflect the absence of Science Fair. Notice and info will be provided**

CW, HW, and Make-ups

All assignments not completed in class become homework unless the teacher explains otherwise. All classwork (CW) assignments will get stamped if completed on time. No stamps will be given for incomplete or very late classwork. Classwork will receive a grade at the end of each unit or unit checkpoint. Incomplete work must get completed prior to the notebook check for any credit. We will establish what completed work looks like in the Science notebook right away. Grade level effort is expected always. Incomplete work will receive partial credit at best. **Below grade level effort will be considered incomplete and will not be accepted.**

Assignments such as **HOMEWORK** or **PROJECTS** with a **DUE DATE** must be completed on time for **FULL CREDIT**. Late work might not be accepted or will receive a decreased point value as time goes on past due. Absent students are responsible for all missed work. It is your job to find out what you missed and complete it in a timely manner.

Expectations and Consequences

Here are my classroom NORMS and Expectations for each student

1. Enter the classroom quietly and ready to work
2. Respect the classroom supplies, equipment, and humans/animals in it. **DO NOT WASTE SUPPLIES!**
3. **DO NOT** Talk during instruction (Teacher Time!)
4. **NO SNACK FOOD** (fruit/veggies ok) **NO HATS, HOODS, PHONES, or SUNGLASSES/PROPS**
5. Original work only, Copycats and student willingly sharing their work will **drop 1 citizenship grade**. Use your judgement when sharing information.

Consequences:

Let's not waste everyone's time with nonsense. If I have to call you out for the same behavior or you are repeating unacceptable behavior daily, you will receive a "Think Sheet" accountability essay and will require a parent signature upon completion before you will be allowed to participate in class again.

- 2 think sheets will result in a mandatory drop in Citizenship grade and privileges may be revoked.
- Excessive behavior issues will result in a parent call home and possible parent conference, and/or removal from the classroom until resolved. Citizenship will drop further.

Additional Information

8th Grade Physical Science – Mr. Bridges

Hello parents! Communication and understanding of classroom expectations plays a crucial role in your student's 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 (listed below) 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 created by the student.

✓	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. Adding color to Science Notebook even earns extra credit!
	<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.