

# BACK TO SCHOOL!

Gaspar De Portola  
Middle School  
Mr. Bridges - Room 335  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science  
Semester 1 (2019-20)

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

### Fresh Start!

Hello and welcome to Mr. Bridges 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science class! We have a great year planned for you... enter class with excitement! As for our classroom, my goal is to maintain a fun, safe, and organized learning environment that will allow all students to thrive in my class. As 8<sup>th</sup> 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. Now is the time to step up!

**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. All expectations will be discussed with your child; however, it is equally important that you review the information about classroom policies and ESPECIALLY the grading scale to ensure there is **complete understanding** of what is expected to be successful. 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!

#### Science Topics of Study

- 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 class on time and **quietly enter the classroom. You are Tardy if you enter after the bell starts. Not running in while...**
- **Complete Assignments fully with grade level effort or above always! - Get the 100%**
- Bring necessary school supplies including **Science Notebook, pencils, any assignments**
- Be prepared to **listen for instructions once class begins. ----->**
- **Be kind and have a good**



**ATTITUDE** most of the time!

### Online Resources and Links:

#### Classroom Website

[www.mrbridges.weebly.com](http://www.mrbridges.weebly.com)

Students will receive instructions and links for selected assignments. Also see what is going on in class on the daily.

#### Online Textbook Website

[www.deportolascience.weebly.com](http://www.deportolascience.weebly.com)

Brain POP: [www.brainpop.com](http://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 site, but **only when permitted by the teacher. A Cell Phone is not an option for music and headphones are not to be plugged in to your phone.** No Bluetooth ear buds in your ears during class. If you are off task and not using the computer for the purpose of the assignment, I will modify your computer privileges. If music is consuming your time on task when allowed, you will lose music privileges while on the computer and need to earn them back. The goal of using tech in the class is to become efficient while using it.

## 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/Participation	= 30%
Unit Exams	= 20%
Projects	= 15%
Quizzes	= 5%
Homework	= 5%
** Completed Science Fair Project	= 25%
	100%

### Final Grade Scale

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

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

**\*\* For Semester 1, all 8<sup>th</sup> 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 might 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 expected of you and is your job to find out what you missed and complete it in a timely manner. **Options:** Ask a classmate, check the website, or Mr. B.

## 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 in citizenship grade**.
- \* Use your best **judgement** when "sharing" information.  
\* Collaboration vs. Copying are two different things.

### 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.

- Uncorrected behavior will result in a mandatory drop in Citizenship grade and privileges may be revoked.
- Excessive behavior issues will result in an office visit or parent call home and possible parent conference.
- Behavior issues eventually affect academic success for the student and ultimately the classroom environment.

# Additional Information

8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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/relatives 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 colored features to your Science Notebook even earns extra credit!
	<u>Ear Buds</u>	An inexpensive pair to be used with the classroom tech to view videos privately. For educational use in the classroom only. Get a pair that plug into the computer. ** Bluetooth earbuds are <u>not</u> ok. They are too tricky to monitor and typically are connected to a phone which is not ok while in the classroom.
	<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.
	<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...
Optional but useful	<u>Flash Drive USB Memory Stick</u>	Students do have their own google drive, however, they can be VERY USEFUL FOR <b><u>ADVANCED SCIENCE STUDENTS</u></b> 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.