



Classroom Guidelines for  
**"8th Grade Integrated Science"**  
with Ms. Gratkins

Here's the definition of "quality work" in this classroom:

**"Quality is: the best you can do,  
completely finished, on time."**

Quality is a very important idea that will be emphasized in this class. If you'll learn to consistently do quality work, you'll find that you are not only very successful in this class, you will also be successful in many other ways.

### Notebook

- In this class you must keep an organized science notebook. It can be a labeled section in a three ring binder that you keep for all of your classes, or an individual binder kept just for science.
- A Notebook Table of Contents will list the assignments for the unit, and will be a tool used in keeping your notebook organized.
- Your notebook becomes an essential resource you use in each unit. It will contain the important information you need to study and complete assignments.
- At the end of each unit, you will need to turn in all of your work for grading. This is accomplished by transferring your science work into a paper pocket folder with clips, which is then turned in for grading.

### Materials

- Bring all materials to class every day. This includes: 3-ring binder with dividers, planner, calculator, colored pencils, ruler, pencils (incl. extra lead, if needed), large eraser, red pen (for grading), and lined notebook paper.
- You will not be allowed to retrieve your materials from another location once class starts.
- If you need to borrow materials from the teacher, you must do so *before* class starts. Having your materials earns positive participation points, failure to have materials will result in lost points.

### Written work

- All work must be done neatly, *using pencil only*.
- Late assignments will not be accepted unless for an excused absence or with an emergency card (late pass). One emergency card is given per quarter.
- All assignments must be completely finished. If you need help, ask. "I don't understand the material" is no excuse for leaving answers blank.
- Always write answers using complete sentences if there is enough room to do so.
- No copying will be allowed. Do not copy from others or allow others to copy from you; if you do you will lose credit for the assignment.
- You must follow all of these guidelines to receive credit for written work.

## Homework

- Due to the nature of science, most work will be completed in class. Homework will be given once or twice a week, and often will involve completing an assignment begun in class.
- Homework must be completed before the beginning of class on the date due.
- To receive credit, homework must follow the written work guidelines described above.

## Tests

- Tests will be given at the end of each unit of instruction, about every 2-3 weeks, and will check your learning of the unit objectives (located on the back of your Notebook Table of Contents).
- Questions will be multiple-choice, written using the general format of the Arizona AIMS test in science (which began Spring 2007). Lab skills will also be tested through performance assessments.
- The AIMS science test will be given in the spring.

## Grading

- Your grade will be based on the percentage of points you have earned for homework, quizzes, class activities, lab work, and tests. Point values for assignments will be based on the amount of work involved.
- Participation points will also be earned by coming to class prepared and actively participating in learning.
- Extra credit assignments are not given.
- The grading scale is as follows: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; 0-59% = F.

## Absence

- Completing make-up work on time is your responsibility. To help you do this, check the make-up calendar *immediately* after returning. If at home, you may also check the class website at <http://hmatters.com/gratkins>
- Good attendance is extremely important. If absent, you may need to come in before or after school to make up missed activities or lab work. Check the schedule posted by the door or on the website for times when I am available.
- If you know you will be absent for a school activity or family vacation, please make arrangements before you go.
- If you have an unexcused absence (ditch), you lose credit for class work done that day.

## Behavior

- The official guideline for student conduct is in the student handbook.
- Your behavior should be considerate and not interfere with the education of other students.
- Inappropriate behavior may result in a warning, removal from class, and/or serving a detention. Parent and/or administrative contact will be made at the teacher's discretion.
- Gum and tardies are automatic detentions. If a teacher holds you after class, get a pass.

I enjoy teaching science, and I hope you enjoy this science class. Following these guidelines will help you do quality work and be successful. Everyone can succeed in this class, even if you have never had good science grades before. Remember, if you need extra help, please feel free to ask during class or stop in before or after school. If you succeed—I succeed!