Foundations of Science

Mr. Jones

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Welcome to Foundations of Science. This course has been designed to provide background information on the various fields of science and to introduce the basic science skills needed for success throughout high school. **These skills include:**

* Collecting, organizing, analyzing, and graphing data
* Reading and summarizing scientific literature
* Notebook organization and note-taking skills
* Following the steps of the Scientific Method
* Classroom behavior
* Using measurement tools such as: ruler, graduated cylinder, triple-beam balance
* Study skills and time management

**STRUCTURE:** The class will be structured and taught in a way so as to help the student get into a “rhythm” of day to day academic responsibility. The science skills listed above will be learned and practiced within 5 weeks blocks of time. Each 5 week block with explore a new topic of science. Within each week of the 5 week topic a different field of science will be explored. For example:

**Topic: Life On Mars (5 weeks)**

Week 1: Earth Science concepts about Mars

Week 2: Physics concepts about Mars

Week 3: Biology concepts about Mars

Week 4: Chemistry concepts about Mars

Week 5: Review for Unit Test on Topic

The structure of each week will follow the same general format. Each week will begin with notes and introduction to concepts, followed by an activity, then a summative quiz at the end of the week. At the end of the 5 week block each student will have to take a culminating test which covers the concepts learned within the last 5 weeks.

**FOCUS:** One major focus of the course is organization. With this in mind each student will be required to keep an up-to-date organized 3-ring binder with all work that has been completed for the class. The notebook will be collected and graded at the end of each 5 week block.

**Student Responsibilities**

* It is your responsibility to learn, and help others in the class learn.
* Act appropriately in the classroom so that you can learn, and everyone else in the class can learn.
  + Be willing and ready to learn.
  + Please do not disturb others from learning.
  + Be respectful

**Use of the cell phone:**

As a school policy, cell phones are not allowed to be used during class. Students may use their cell phone between classes or during lunch. Cell phones are unnecessary, and a distraction during class.

**Use of the Bathroom:**

Each student will be allowed to use the bathroom 2 times per week during class. Exceeding this amount will result in a deduction of their participation in class grade.

**GRADING:**

There will be 3 categories to a student’s grade:

1. Participation/ Classwork **15%**
2. HW/Labs **30%**
3. Tests/Quizzes **55%**

**COMMUNICATION:** The best way to contact me is through e-mail. Teachers at Arlington must check their email multiple times a day. I will be available after school on Thursdays for extra help. I do have a website that you may check. It is updated with information and handouts that are given in class.

I am looking forward to having a very productive and successful year working with you. I hope that when you leave here in June you will have more questions about how our world works than you have today. I also hope you will have the tools to begin searching for answers to those questions.

Email: cjones@acsdny.org