



South Texas Preparatory Academy
7th grade Science

Ms. Blanca Nieto

Room 131

Conference period: A days-4th period (1:45-3:05pm) B days-1st period (8:30-9:50am)

Work Phone (956) 381-5522 ext 2648 or 388-2648

E-mail: blanca.nieto@stisd.net

Course Description – STPA Science I is a specially designed accelerated Science course consisting of 7th and 8th grade TEKS. The course is geared towards meeting the standards set forth by the State of Texas and to increase the critical thinking abilities of every student. It is a laboratory-oriented course which provides students an opportunity to investigate scientific concepts using the scientific method and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. This course will allow the students to develop a deeper understanding of scientific methods and concepts as described in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). At the end of the course, students will take a state accredited exam to determine whether a student is placed in Biology for the following school year. The course sequence is as follows: 1-Introduction to Science, 2- Matter and Energy, 3-Force and Motion, 4-Work and Machines, 5-Space Systems, 6-Earth Systems, 7-Living Systems, 8- Genetics, 9-Ecosystems.

Resources

2015. Texas Science Fusion - Grade 7, Houghton Mifflin, Harcourt

2015. Texas Science Fusion - Grade 8, Houghton Mifflin, Harcourt

Technology

The use of electronic devices will be permitted at the teacher's discretion.

Materials

2 Composition notebooks

Spiral- 70 sheet

1-2 Folder w/ brackets

Loose leaf paper

Pen and pencils

Colored pencils

Stick glue or clear tape

Scissors

Grading

Students' average will be calculated as follows

40% test and projects

40% quizzes and lab reports

20% daily work

Homework/Daily work guidelines

Students' homework is due at the beginning of the period of the given due date. A student who is absent on a day homework is assigned shall be given the same amount of time to complete the assignment as the rest of the class and shall receive a due date for the next day the student returns to class. A majority of the homework will be used as an indicator of student understanding and preparation of upcoming quizzes and tests. For that reason, some homework will be graded in class the very next day, so it is crucial that homework be completed. If a student is missing 3 or more assignments in any class, he/she will be placed in homework roundup. For every day that the assignment is late, 10 points will be deducted.



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Lab Work

Most lab work will be a team effort. Each member of a team is expected to make a contribution in achieving the objectives. Students not contributing to the work will be documented. Each student is expected to submit individual lab reports. Participating in lab activities is a privilege. All students were instructed in the proper behavior in a science lab classroom. **If a student is asked to leave the classroom due to unacceptable behavior and/or unsafe classroom behavior, then the student will receive zero points for the lab assignment for that day and could also include administrative consequences. Administrative consequences for an infraction of the Science Safety contract may range from detention to suspension. Repeated lab safety violations may result in the loss of lab privileges.**

Assessments

- A. *Quizzes* are designed to monitor the student's progress on regular basis and maybe announced or unannounced. Students are expected to be prepared for each quiz. **Students who receive a failing grade may attend afterschool tutorial for extra points.**
- B. *Tests* will be scheduled after every major topic. Tests may consist of two parts:
 - 1. Objective- MC, Matching, T/F, Fill in the Blank
 - 2. Subjective- short answer questions

Students who receive a failing grade on an exam may retake an alternative test within 5 school days of receiving the results of their test AND only after he/she has met the following conditions:

- 1. Student attends at least one tutoring session
 - 2. Teacher and student come into agreement for retest date.
 - 3. Students will be give the higher of the two test grades
- C. *Common Assessments*- Formative and summative assessment will be given throughout the year to measure academic growth.
 - D. *Semester Exams* - Students are encouraged to maintain a Science notebook and keep quizzes and tests throughout the school year. **Semester exams will count 25% of the students final grade. There is no retest for semester exams**

Projects

This course requires several major and minor projects throughout the year. Some of the projects may be online while others will be constructed by hand. Please make sure to use your planners to keep track of upcoming projects that are due.

Pyramid of Interventions

The objective of this class is for every student to be successful in demonstrating mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Students not successfully progressing will be assisted by the pyramid of interventions. These interventions may include special class activities and assignments, required tutoring during the school day or after school, parent contact, and other interventions specific for the student.

Ms. Blanca Nieto
Instructor

Mrs. A. Castro
Principal

Ms. Blanca Nieto
7th Dept Head

X _____
Student's Signature

X _____
Parent /Guardian Signature