

Townsend Junior High 8th Grade Science 2020 - 2021

Ms. Soria – Portable 9 (P9)

Contact: jessica_soria@chino.k12.ca.us

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to 8th Grade Physical Science! Over the course of year, we will be exploring topics such as: states of matter, physical and chemical reactions, relationships in and across ecosystems, through inquiry, investigation and experimentation.

To parents:

With the adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards, changes in this course include demonstrating mastery through performance tasks and the application of concepts that cut across all disciplines.

For more information, please visit <https://www.nextgenscience.org/parents>.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me either by phone or email ☺

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND BEHAVIOR

I am looking forward to having an excellent school year with all of you. Together, we will explore the wonders of science through a range of activities and labs. I expect and believe in the best of you! As such, I also expect you to follow the Townsend Expectations:

1. Be safe. We will be going through classroom procedures and routines throughout the week as well as lab safety to ensure you are safe in the classroom at all times. The most important rules are to stay with your lab group, treat lab equipment as if it is your own, and follow instructions of the lab. Regarding COVID-19, we will be practicing safe distancing and adhering to proper hygiene practices as mandated by the school district to ensure the well-being for everyone in the classroom.

2. Be respectful. Everyone's identity and person is to be respected-I will not tolerate bullying of any kind.

When in doubt, follow the Golden Rule.

3. Be responsible. Own your learning and your actions. Your education is your own and shaped by you and I am here to support you. Don't be afraid to ask questions or for help!

Lastly, school policies are as follows:

1) No gum allowed. Please note that other candies like mints or Starbursts will count as gum. (If you are sick, cough drops are acceptable, though be sure to inform me that you have them. Candy I give you is fine as well but it must be eaten during my class (to avoid you getting in trouble with another teacher.)

2) No hats or sunglasses. Hats, sunglasses, hoodies, and beanies are not allowed. However, hats and sunglasses are allowed in cases of medical/religious purposes or in times of extended sun exposure.

3) No use of cell phones during school hours. During class, we will have many activities throughout the year that will require you to use your phone. However, cell phones are not allowed to be out without my permission. Cell phone usage for non-school related activities will result in the phone being confiscated and sent to the office for a parent to retrieve it. Should too many cell phone violations occur in a period, I will have to limit the amount of phone-based activities.

4) No food or drinks are allowed in the quads or blacktop. Water bottles are fine to take out but please make sure to take out any other beverages and food at the tables. In class, please return water bottles to your backpack. If there is ever any spill, please inform me immediately.

5) Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself. This includes but is not limited to play fighting, splashing each other with water and throwing things at each other. It is easy for play fights to escalate, which is why we are eliminating the chances for that to happen.

**Violations of school policies will be followed up with a class consequence, however, I expect and believe the best of you ☺

Procedures

A full outline of classroom procedures will be given to you, but you may consider this a brief overview:

Agenda/Warm-Up: When you enter the classroom, you are expected to go directly to your assigned seat and take out your student agenda, notebook, and pencil. If you are not in your seat when the bell rings, you will be marked as late. It is expected that you write the homework in your agenda at the beginning of class as well as upcoming tests and project due dates.

Transitions: Follow the 1, 2, 3 rule when transitioning from one activity to another. 1. Listen to instructions. 2. Ask clarifying questions. 3. Follow the instructions quietly and quickly.

Hall Passes: Your agenda or a class hall pass is required when you go out to the restroom. If you need to go to the restroom during class, please have your agenda ready to be signed before you call me. If you would like to meet with before school or during lunch, please ask me for a hall pass beforehand and have it in your hand when you are walking to my room.

In-class Activities: See "Ms. Soria's Classroom Procedures." You will have to get this hand-out signed as well as your syllabus.

I, (print student's name) _____, have read the syllabus, test and quiz policies, and Ms. Soria's Classroom Procedures and agree to make 2020-2021 a successful school year.

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____

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Clean-Up: I have a phone cue that will go off a few minutes before the bell so you have time to clean up. Please stay focused and on task until you hear the cue and I give you the okay to pack up. **Stay in your seats until I dismiss you.**

CONSEQUENCES

Minor behavior that does not follow classroom expectations, such as talking while I am talking or not following instructions, will be first addressed with a warning. If the actions are repeated, the consequence will be a citation and an email or phone call to your parents. After that, an 8th period will be issued and parents will be contacted.

**Please note: Detentions take precedence over after school activities.*

In the event a student is openly defiant, fights, uses profanity, or is otherwise so disruptive as to prevent further learning, steps will proceed immediately to an office referral.

GRADING POLICY

Grade breakdown:

- A+ - 99% and higher
- A - 90% - 98.9%
- B - 80% - 89%
- C - 70% - 79%
- D - 60% - 69%
- F - below 60%

Work Habits/Effort/Behavior

- O:** outstanding
- S:** Satisfactory
- N:** Needs Improvement
- U:** Unsatisfactory

Your total grade is broken down as follows:

Science notebook/labs/projects:

25%

Tests, quizzes, and projects: 75%

(Please see Quiz and Test Policies for information on retakes.)

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS:

Homework is assigned to reinforce and help you further understand the concepts we learn about in class, therefore it is important that you complete your homework. It also gives you the opportunity to find out what you know and come up with questions in class the next day. If you are having trouble with an assignment, please feel free to come to me for help!

In addition, technology is a useful learning tool and has become an interwoven part of our science curriculum. In science, our department uses GoFormative to assign online projects and assignments. If internet access is ever an issue for your student being unable to complete an online assignment, please feel free to reach out to me so we can work together to find a solution.

Late Work: late assignments are accepted for the majority of credit. Late notebooks may be turned in up until the next notebook check for the majority of credit.

Grades are updated on Aeries. Notebook checks are done every 2-3 weeks so parents can expect to see grades updated then.

Parents will be notified when their student's grade falls below 65%.

ABSENCES

If you miss a day of class with an excused absence, you should be ready to turn in homework that was due the day you were absent. You also have

an extra day to complete the homework assigned the day you were absent. **I keep all extra copies for assignments in a box labeled 'Absent Work' in the front of the classroom.** For long-term absences, you will be given the number of days you were absent **plus** an additional day to turn in makeup work. **If you have an excused absence on a day of a test or project, the test/project will be taken/due the day you return to school.**

Note: I am always more than happy to help with questions on missing work or difficult concepts before or after school. Unless I am on duty, I will be in my room around 7:20 am before school and until 2:30 pm after school.

Materials

- One composition notebook (college rule)
- Calculator
- Dry erase marker
- Glue sticks or tape
- Sheets of notebook paper
- Pens, pencils, and eraser
- Set of colored pencils

Donations

Donations for classroom materials such as tissues, glue sticks, colored pencils, and other everyday materials are not required, but certainly appreciated.

I, (print student's name) _____, have read the syllabus, test and quiz policies, and Ms. Soria's Classroom Procedures and agree to make 2020-2021 a successful school year.

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____