

Welcome to SCIENCE!



ABOUT THE TEACHER

My name is Dena Meyerhoff (Ms. Dena) this is my 10th year as the science teacher and my 12th year with the students at The Einstein School.

I graduated from St. Leo University with a bachelor's degree in teaching middle grades science with a reading endorsement. I am state certified in elementary K-6 education and exceptional student education. I also have a background in creating science curriculum for a publishing company that writes children's books as well as 11 years of leading Girl Scouts and running summer science camps.

I am excited to get back to more hands on, interactive teaching this year and I look forward to an active and exciting school year.

CLASS GOALS

Elementary: My goals with the elementary grade students are to instill a curiosity and understanding of the world around them. Activities will accommodate multiple modes of learning and will frequently bring us outside the classroom as we progress through the required state standards.

Middle: Middle school students will not only be learning the required science topics. We will also be working on organizational skills, study tactics, responsibility, and strategies to help learn and retain knowledge and be successful in high school. Hands-on labs and activities will also be used with the middle school students.



GRADING

The grading distribution for science class is as follows:

Class work 50%, quizzes 10%, homework 10%, tests and projects 30%

CURRICULUM

The topics covered in each grade coincide with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.

Gardening: All grades will participate in gardening and cooking projects throughout the school year. Our gardening efforts will produce a winter and summer harvest and vegetables will be sold during the last months of the school year during parent pick up.



Technology: We will be frequently using the smart board and laptop computers in class to supplement our lessons. Technology is incorporated into each unit.

Projects: 3th through 8th grades will have one home project this year (plus science fair for 5-8) that correlates with their grade subject material. This project will be assigned in late September/October.



Science Fair: 5th through 8th grade students will participate in the Einstein School science fair this year. We will hold school competitions during the Amazing Give event week in April. Students will be expected to complete some of the work at home including assignments that will be given instead of regular homework and the actual experimentation.

Middle school students will complete a formal research paper related to their project during the first half of the school year. Each week during this time they will have a portion due as a homework assignment. These assignments will be assigned on google classroom.

Grade information: Online in Skyward, you will be able to see your student grades and other relevant information about your child.

HOMEWORK

All grades will have weekly science homework. The homework will be assigned on Thursdays and be due back the following Thursday.

The science homework assigned will directly correlate with the material being learned in the classroom and is assigned as extra practice. If you wish to help your child stay on top of the material they need to know, please review their homework on a regular basis.

Occasionally regular homework will be replaced with test study material or home project assignments. The middle school students will have science fair homework each week during the first half of the year. These changes will be noted on the homework sheet (3rd-5th) or in their planners (6th-8th)

Extra Credit

Students will bring home a study guide before each test and can bring study cards they made at home for extra credit on the test. Other extra credit opportunities are given over Christmas and Spring Breaks if enough interest is shown.

Free Homework Help

I will be holding homework/science fair help on Wednesdays after school until 3:30. Since their homework is due on Thursday, I suggest that students have their homework already started before coming on Wednesdays for help.



Feel free to contact me with any concerns. Email is the easiest way to get hold of me. I check it every morning and every evening.

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