**Junior High 8th Grade Science Syllabus**

**Teacher: Mrs. Ely**

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**The Legacy Traditional School Mission:**

Legacy Traditional School’s mission is to provide motivated students with the opportunity to achieve academic excellence in an accelerated, back-to-basics, safe learning environment taught by caring and knowledgeable educators in cooperation with supportive, involved parents.

**Welcome and Introduction:**

Welcome to another exciting year here at Legacy Traditional NW Tucson! I am extremely pleased to have the opportunity to work with your child this year in science. I am beginning my 15th year of teaching science—I taught high school biology and agricultural science for 9 years, and this will be my 6th year of teaching science at the junior high level. I have an extreme passion for science and have been using my science skills in the competitive livestock industry for the past 24 years as I work with 4-H/FFA members on their livestock projects. My undergraduate degree is in agricultural education from the University of Arizona, and I have taught a variety of science topics from biotechnology to aquaculture to crop science to pre-veterinary science. My husband’s family owns a hay farm in Willcox, a cattle ranch below the Mogollon Rim, and his one sister is a field agent for the Natural Resource Conservation Service. My father owns a solar energy consulting business and my 2 brothers are both mechanical engineers in the energy field (one nuclear and one in fossil fuels), so the application of science is a family affair for us!

My goal is to create a classroom environment that will enable students to:

* Build a strong science vocabulary
* Gain a stronger understanding of key scientific principles and concepts
* Learn how to apply mathematical formulas to solve scientific problems
* Develop analytical skills and challenge assumptions, think creatively, and find real life applications for science concepts

As a former CTE (vocational) science teacher, I believe that hands-on experience is essential to aide student learning, so this year we will conduct many laboratory demonstrations and experiments to complement our written learning. The labs are meant to reinforce the key concepts learned in the classroom. Your child’s safety during these labs is priority. I will insist that they wear all necessary safety equipment and that they act responsibly in the lab situation. Lab write-ups will take the form of an informal and formal evaluation throughout the year.

I have high expectations for each and every student—each student is responsible for their own learning and must learn to advocate for themselves when help is needed. Each student will be successful in this course as long as they complete all assignments, participate in discussions and labs, and follow class/lab rules. Please contact me by phone or email if there are any concerns with your student’s progress. I am looking forward to a fabulous year!

**Course Overview:**

* Scientific Method
* Cells, Heredity, Evolution/Adaptation
* Properties and Changes of Matter (Basic Chemistry)
* Forces & Motion (Basic Physics)
* Environmental Problems & Solutions

**Materials:**

Each day, every student should have with them:

* 3-ring binder (containing loose-leaf, college-ruled notebook paper, loose-leaf graph paper, this syllabus, handouts, other papers associated with the class such as notes, assignments, quizzes and tests.) **NO** Spiral Notebooks for science!
* Pencil bag with #2 pencils (mechanical is preferred with extra lead), black, blue and red ink pens, eraser, colored pencils, and 3 different colors of highlighter.

**Daily Classroom Procedure:**

* Each day enter the classroom, find your seat, take out your homework and planner, fill in your planner with the needed info and begin your bellwork.
* Each assignment turned in, should have a proper heading in the right top corner:
  + Name (first and last), period, Date. Assignment info should be on the top margin line.
* All homework will be passed to the end of the row for pickup by the teacher within the first 5 minutes of class.

**Grading Policy**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grading Percentages/Weights** | |  | **Grading Scale** | |
| Science Applications = labs & projects | 15% | A | 90-100 |
| Homework/Classwork | 20% | B | 80-89.9 |
| Quizzes | 25% | C | 70-79.9 |
| Chapter Tests | 40% | D | 60-69.9 |
| F | 0-59.9 |

Students are expected to turn in neat, quality work. 5% will be deducted from the assignment grade if the work is not neat or has not followed the required completion directions.

*Homework and Classwork Policy:*

* Homework shall be assigned Monday through Thursday of each week. Expect to have at least 15-20 minutes of homework for this class.
* Daily homework is due at the beginning of the next class period we meet.
* Types of homework: reading from text, worksheets that coincide with the text, completing work started in class, preparation of long term projects such as science fair and labs, memorizing/studying material for tests and quizzes.

*Absent and Late Work:*

* It is required that all assignments be completed. All students shall be provided one day for each day of absence to make up missed assignments, bot including long term assignments. Work not completed by the assigned time shall be considered late; however, teachers shall use their discretion to determine guidelines in acceptance of late assignments due to extenuating circumstances.
* Students are responsible for obtaining the work missed—check the assignment calendar and missing work folder at the front of the room, request missed work via email, check my page on the jr high Weebly website. Missed labs must be made up, see the teacher for instructions and time for make-up of the lab.
* Assignments will be due at the beginning of the class period on the deadline date provided by the teacher. Thereafter, a 0% shall be given.
* Make up tests and quizzes shall be completed by the next tutoring session. Thereafter, a 0% shall be given.

**Lab Safety Rules**

Each student will be required to take and pass (with an 80% or better) a test on Lab Safety before they may be allowed to participate in any labs. This is very important to ensure that each studet is safe. The safety test will be given the end of the first week of school.

**Tutoring**

Tutoring is available before school on Tuesday-Thursday from 7am to 7:30am, and after school from 3-3:30pm by appointment.

**Discipline Plan: Mustang’s Pride**

* Please read and practice the policies in the Mustang’s Pride program. It will be reinforced and followed in each class.
* Please be aware that there is a zero tolerance for cheating, and it will result in an automatic loss of 10 points. This is not limited to tests, copying independent homework/classwork assignments is also considered cheating.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

* Preparing/setting up lab equipment and materials on lab days
* Cleaning lab equipment after a lab

**Legacy Traditional School—NW Tucson Campus**

**Mrs. Ely, Instructor**

**8th Grade Science Syllabus**

Your signature below signifies that you have read and understood the course requirements, procedures, and policies.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_