# Welcome to 8th Grade Science 25-26

Located in **The Science Lab** – D3
Ms. Potchen's email: tpotchen@pvsdcamarillo@gmail.com
Ms. Potchen's phone number: 805-383-5330 ext. 4533

## Course Description

8th grade science is rooted in inquiry, exploration and collaboration. Through these processes, students will learn the essentials of science and ways to make sense of the world around them. There will be an emphasis on developing the skills of critical thinking, analysis, modeling, and working cooperatively.

Students will be working in their Science Binder most class meetings. This will stay in the classroom, **though it can be brought home for studying**. Quizzes in Trimesters 1 and 2 are open note, so it is important to bring the binder back to school, that is the student's responsibility.

## Expectations/Agreements

For each type of activity, there are specific expectations of students. These are communicated and posted for everyone to see. Students will follow the class agreements posted in the classroom. Students are also expected to follow the schoolwide rules in the LPSSA 2025-2026 Student-Parent Handbook.

## Resources

LPSSA follows the California Integrated Learning Model of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). We use the Amplify Curriculum, supplemented with materials from Generation Genius and STEMscopes. Activities include plenty of group work and collaboration, as well as independent work.

## Course Policies

**Homework and Late Work:**
Homework will be given seldomly. Most of what needs to be covered can happen during class time. Students can bring in late work until the end of the grading period (for progress and report cards). Review the 25-26 Reporting Schedule on the Middle School Google Classroom for dates. Please notify me when late work is completed.

**Make-Up Work**
Students who have missed classwork will be expected to do make-ups. ***Students are responsible for gathering their work from the "Absent" bin*** upon return to school. Digital materials will be on Google Classroom or email (CHECK YOUR EMAIL!). Lab materials will be kept available for a week after a lab is missed, and the lab should be made up during an agreed-upon time. Please notify me when make-up work is completed.



**Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism**

Science class often deals with analyzing and applying information discovered by other scientists. Giving proper credit is important. I follow the schoolwide policies on the topic. Students caught exhibiting academic dishonesty will receive a zero on an assignment. Depending on the type of assignment, they may be able to redo it.

## Course Topics

Below is a list of general topics that will be covered throughout the year and their associated NGSS standards.

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|---|---|
| **MS-LS3** | **Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits** |
| **MS-LS4** | **Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity** |
| **MS-ESS22** | **Earth's Place in the Universe** |
| **MS-ESS3** | **Earth and Human Activity** |
| **MS-PS2** | **Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions** |
| **MS-PS3** | **Energy** |
| **MS-PS4** | **Waves and Their Applications in Technologies** |

**Daily Class Materials:**

- Small 3-ring binder (kept in the classroom)
- Pencil (preferably) or pen
- Chromebook

## Grading

We use traditional grading in science, and some classwork will be assessed as well as unit quizzes.. All assignments, projects, and quizzes are weighted the same. Students are assessed based on their understanding of the concepts covered with either full, partial, or no credit.

## Citizenship Grades

- Outstanding (O) - Student is consistently meeting the expectations of a successful learner in class.
- Satisfactory (S) - Student is generally meeting the expectations of a successful learner in class.
- Needs Improvement (N) - Student is consistently not meeting multiple expectations of a successful learner and/or behavior is disruptive or unsafe to the learning environment. Issues have been documented & communicated to parents.
- Unsatisfactory (U) - Student is consistently not meeting multiple expectations of a successful learner and/or behavior has not improved from the "Needs Improvement" from the progress report.

**If a student receives lower than a 2.0 GPA and/or two "Needs Improvements" or one "Unsatisfactory," they will not be able to participate in PAW Day or School Dances.*

- ❑ Prepared for class with all materials
- ❑ Participates and demonstrates attentive listening by following directions
- ❑ Follows school and class expectations and demonstrates a positive attitude
- ❑ Displays responsibility
- ❑ Meets deadlines and makes good use of class time
- ❑ Respectful to others and the learning environment

If you have comments or questions, please reach out to me. This slip is proof that you have read and understand the policies and expectations in Ms. Potchen's Science Lab and the 8th grade science class. Please return this portion of the syllabus only.

Student Name: _____ Caregiver Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Caregiver Signature: _____