Odessa High School Science Department

SCIENCE ENVIRONMENT

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INTRODUCTION

Science is the possession of knowledge as distinguished from ignorance or misunderstanding. We use science every day in simple and complex ways. It is a knowledge covering general truths or the operation of general laws especially as obtained and tested through the scientific method. Science encompasses all curriculums and therefore interrelates itself with the entire world. It is hoped that you will learn much more than the science curriculum and the particular science field you are currently studying.

MATERIALS NEEDED

* Notebook (used SOLELY as a Science Journal) / Writing Device
* Calculator (if possible)

EXPECTATIONS & SAFETY

Many laboratories sections which you will study requite minor dangers and risk. For these reasons, safety is always top priority in the science classroom. The following list is good practice and will be followed by this classroom:

1) **BE SAFE** and **THINK SMART!**
2) Be **CIVIL** toward your neighbor **and** yourself.
3) Be **OPENMINDED** by listening to others **and** acknowledging their point of view.
3) Follow your approved lab method specifically.
4) Keep your lab area clear of materials not being used.
5) Wear proper safety attire when requested (goggles, aprons, gloves…)
6) Contact Mr. Wehr if anything is broken, spilled, or basically **WRONG (Code1, Code1)!**
7) Wash all glassware and throw away all used materials when completed.

GRADING SCALE

100-93…...A	92-90…..A-	89-87…..B+
86-83…....B	82-80…..B-	79-77…..C+
76-73...…..C	72-70…..C-	69-67…..D+
66-60…....D	59 & below…..F	

GRADING

1) EXAMS / PROJECT / PRESENTATION: There will be many different kinds of exams this year, and still some of the familiar fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, matching, and short essay type questions. The exams are about every 3 weeks, and are generally 50 points adjusted to 200 points. Projects and presentations are also heavily weighted like an exam, and will have specific guidelines administered during their assignment duration.

2) LABORATORIES / FIELD WORK: Most labs will be followed by the methodology created in class, or a printed handout, which are 33 points per laboratory. Field work also usually requires a written report or special project description accompanied with a rubric.

3) ASSIGNMENTS: All assignments are due after the class decides on an appropriate time frame. Assignments are usually between 10 and 20 points.

4) QUIZZES: There usually is one quiz per week; Quizzes are normally on Friday and will be 6 points. If you pay attention during the week, you can relax and not worry, these quizzes are not created to trick or hurt you, only to solidify BASIC concepts during that week. You may self-correct for full credit.

5) CURRENT SCIENCE TIMES: Every day (but every few weeks for you as an individual), there will be a current event **(CURRENT SCIENCE TIMES or CST)** regarding science or technology for 10 points. You create a CST and present this to the class while the rest of the class writes a brief, one-line newspaper style headline. **See the CST rubric to ensure full credit on the following pages.** CST's will earn full credit if not late or tardy, but can be presented for ½ the credit the following day unless it is being presented for ½ credit already. There is +1 bonus point for letting Mr. Wehr know you are ready and +1 bonus point for making the science content relative to the course subject.

- Any graded task (journal check, quiz, assignment, laboratory, exam, paper, or presentation) may be reworked until mastery occurs. This simply means you can rework any assignment (other than the Current Science Times) until the task is at 100%. All other assignments should include a quick (2-? minutes) refresher collaboration with Mr. Wehr before or after school to review what concepts were missed for each task. After this brief meeting, you are eligible to rework the task and turn it back in for re-grading. You can complete this process as many times as until mastery. Only exams have a "until-next-exam" window starting when it is entered into Skyward to rework until mastery.

SCIENCE CURRICULUM CATEGORIES & VALUES

	Category	Value	# / Quarter	Quarterly Value	% Value
1	Exam	200	3	600	61%
2	Laboratory	40	5	200	21%
3	Assignment	15	6	90	9%
4	Quiz	6	9	54	6%
5	Current Science Times / Journal Check	10	3	30	3%
			Total:	974	100%

Category 1
Exam

Value
200 points

Rubric
Exams between 30 and 70 questions, all recalibrated to 200 points eg. (43.5/50) = (87/100) = (174/200)!

Category 2
Laboratory

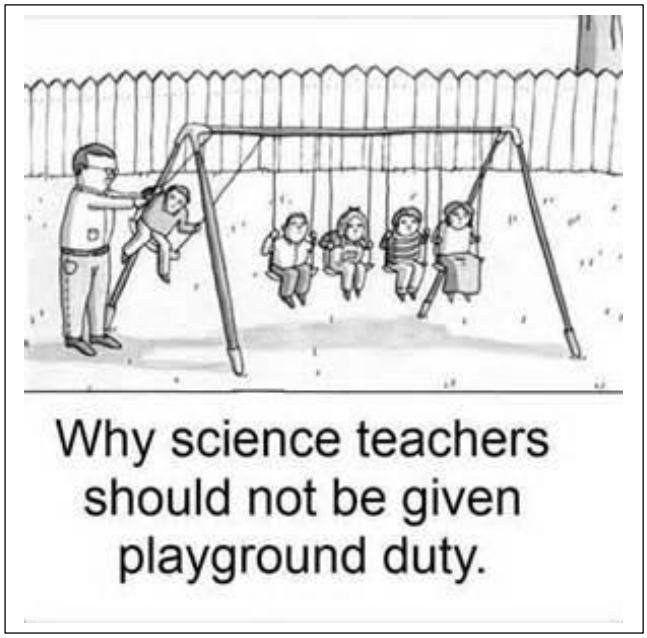
Value
40 points

Rubric
Introduction = 10 points
- Header = 1
- Research Question = 1
- Control Variables = 3 (at least 3)
- Manipulated Variable = 1
- Responding Variable = 1
- Hypothesis = 3

Materials & Methods = 5 points
- Header = 1
- Items Used = 2 (list is ok)
- Method Used = 2 (numbered ok)

Results = 13 points
- Header = 1
- Work Shown = 2 (when applicable)
- Data Table w/Units = 6
- Data Averaged w/Units = 4

Discussion = 12 points
- Header = 1
- Hypothesis Accepted / Rejected (& why) = 2
- Graph w/X-Y axis & Labels = 5
- Explanation of Data (Ratio x's different) **OR**
- Percent Error (when applicable) = 2
- Meaningful Improve Statement = 2



Category 3
Assignments

Value
10-20 points

Rubric
One or two assignments graded together = 10 points

Category 4
Quiz

Value
6 points

Rubric
Three to six questions = 6 points

Category 5
Current Science Times

Value
10 points

Rubric
Who (must have Organizational Name) = 1
Does What = 1
To Whom or What = 1
When = 1
Where = 1
How = 1
Why = 1
Recapitulation Sentence = 3
- Announce Bonus = + 1
- Topic Bonus = +1