Sinaloa Middle School
2026-2027

COURSE TITLE: Science 7 Life Science
TEACHER'S NAME: Miss Sarah Dakin
TEACHER'S E-MAIL: sarah.dakin@simivalleyusd.org

My name is Sarah Dakin, and this is my 15th year teaching Science at Sinaloa Middle School. In 7th-grade science, we focus on Ecology, Geological Processes, Chemistry of Materials, Chemical Reactions, and Biomedical Engineering. I run a very clean, organized, engaging classroom, and look forward to including your student in this plan.

I. Course Standards/Objectives:

In 7th-grade science, we focus on Ecology, Geological Processes, Chemistry of Materials, Chemical Reactions, and Biomedical Engineering. These topics are conducted in a hands-on manner, connecting natural phenomena to classroom lessons.

II. Classroom Management and Expectations:

My expectations are as follows:

-Students are to be on time, bring all necessary materials to class, participate daily, and conduct themselves in a mature, academic, appropriate, and respectful manner.

-It is my policy that backpacks are placed on the side counter, students' materials are at their desks, and they are in their seats all **before** the bell rings, otherwise they are marked tardy.

-Per school policy: 4-6 tardies drop Citizenship to an N, 7 or more results in a U, per quarter.

-There is **NO** eating, drinking, chewing gum, or consuming candy in this classroom. This both breaks the classroom policy as well as the Sinaloa Science Safety Contract that all students and parents/guardians sign. Students found doing so will receive lunch trash pick-up detention, and their citizenship grades will drop.

-Cell Phones and earbuds/earpods are not allowed and are never to be seen in this classroom.

-Hats and hoods are to be immediately removed when entering my classroom. Once seated, if a student does not remove their hood or hat once the bell rings, they will be marked tardy.

-During the 7th-grade year, students should be practicing their strong, positive academic habits and reducing their poor academic habits to prepare them for 8th grade and promotion.

III. Classroom Materials:

Students will bring the following materials to class each day:

- Science Journal (provided by teacher)
- Pencil (only pencil is allowed in class)
- Eraser
- Highlighter

Textbooks will be located in the classroom, as well as online on ClassLink.

IV. Grades and Grading:

Grades are not weighted in this class; it is purely a point system. Each assignment, whether classwork/homework, lab assessments, or assessments, will be worth a certain point value and added to the total points possible.

Grades range from:100-90%=A, 89-80%=B, 79-70%=C, 69-60%=D, and 50-0%=F
Grades are always available on Aeries, and should be looked at on a regular basis.

Late work will not be accepted; all assignments are due at the end of the school day that same day. No homework is assigned, and there is ample time for students to complete all labs and assessments in class each day. Exceptions will be made for those with needed accommodations and those who were absent.

V. Cheating, Plagiarism, and Honesty Policy

If a student turns in work that they did not personally create, such as using ChatGPT, AI, or copying and pasting instead, this will result in a ZERO on the assignment or test and no chance to retake or make it up. This will also drop their citizenship and work habits grades. This will also be reported to the administration and marked in the student's cumulative file. Detentions will also be assigned.

VI. Communication:

The best way to communicate with me is via email. I check in regularly during the school day hours and can get back to you the fastest. If you would like to schedule a phone call or in-person meeting, email me, and we can set one up. If at any time you have a question or concern, please reach out to me. Also, when I have a question or concern, I will, in return, reach out to you. An open line of communication creates a strong team environment.