Sinaloa Middle School
A California School To Watch
A California Gold Ribbon School
2026-2027

COURSE TITLE: 7th Grade Science

TEACHER'S NAME: Michelle Garlits

TEACHER'S E-MAIL: michelle.garlits@simivalleyusd.org

My name is Michelle Garlits and it is truly a joy to teach 7th grade! Science has always been my passion and I hope to inspire future scientists in my classroom. I look forward to a great year of learning, inspiring, and overall individual success. To help achieve this goal, please read over the following information carefully:

Course Outline

I. Course Standards/Objectives

"Educational standards describe what students should know and be able to do in each subject in each grade. In California, the State Board of Education decides on the standards for all students, from kindergarten through high school. The California Department of Education helps schools make sure that all students are meeting the standards. Information regarding specific standards can be found at www.cde.ca.gov

Seventh Grade Science will focus on the following core ideas:

- Ecology: Study of ecosystems and organism interactions
- Geologic Processes
- Chemistry of Materials
- Chemistry of Reactions

II. **Classroom Management and Expectations** -

- Students are expected to follow school rules and the expectations listed in the Sinaloa Agenda Book found on the school website.
- Students are expected to complete their own academic work. Offenses and consequences are listed under Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism / Cheating on page three of the Sinaloa Agenda Book.

Cheating and plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a zero for that assignment and a parent contact. Any subsequent offenses will result in an Administrative Referral and potential removal from the IM Program.

- Students are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner that promotes an environment that ensures all students have an opportunity for academic success.
- Students are expected to follow all **Procedures and Routines** discussed in class.
- Students are expected to access Google Classroom and follow the expectations discussed in class.
- Safety in the science classroom is essential. Students are expected to adhere to the signed Sinaloa Science Safety Contract.

If a student chooses to disregard these expectations, consequences will be assigned. These consequences may include the following: loss of the privilege of participating in future labs, a zero on the lab in which the safety contract violation occurred, and being referred to an administrator. The teacher reserves the right to use her own discretion in implementing a consequence that she feels is appropriate.

III. **Grades and Grading**

The student's degree of mastery of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) is the critical element in determining the letter grade in this class.

The following standard grading scale will apply:
90% – 100% A; 80% - 89% B; 70 – 79% C; 60 – 69% D; less than 60% F

IM/H: Students in IM/H 7th Grade Science are required to complete the same curriculum as 7th Grade General Science students. However, students in IM/H 7th Grade Science will be responsible for more group projects along with higher depth of knowledge questions throughout the year.

Policies for Late Assignments

∞ Students are expected to complete and turn in assignments on time.
∞ No late assignments will be accepted without prior discussion with the teacher.
∞ Accepting late work without a penalty and without a legitimate reason is unfair to the students who have submitted their assignments on time.

Every effort is made to post grades to Aeries in a timely manner. Late work will be updated on Aeries by the end of the grading period. Students and parents are encouraged to email the teacher with any concerns regarding grades.

Classroom Absence Policy: Students are expected to complete any assignments missed due to an absence. It is the student's responsibility to see what assignments were missed.

Additional Information about This Class

Guidelines for Using Computers and Other Technology

∞ Students are required to adhere to the expectations outlined in the school agenda book as well as the SVUSD Acceptable Use Policy in the use of technology. There will be occasions in which students will be allowed to use these devices for educational purposes in the science classroom. It is expected that students will adhere to any additional instructions given by the teacher. If a student chooses to disregard these policies, consequences will be administered as stated in the agenda book as well as the loss of the privilege to use these devices within the classroom.

Cell Phones / Electronic Devices / Pictures and Videos (page four and five of the agenda book)

∞ Students are expected to adhere to all of the expectations outlined in the school agenda book.

Detentions (page five of the agenda book) .

∞ The teacher may assign a 15 minute after school detention without parent notification for inappropriate student behavior.

IV. **Communication** -

I am available in room A-9 for any questions or help.
If you have any questions or concerns please send me an email at michelle.garlits@simivalleyusd.org

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For more information on schoolwide policies and expectations, please review the agenda book, viewable online at sinaloa.simivalleyusd.org.