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

COURSE TITLE: 8th Grade IM Science Honors

TEACHER'S NAME: Corrine Lightfoot

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My name is Corrine Lightfoot and it is so much fun being back at Sinaloa and having an opportunity to teach science in a classroom where my love of science began. I am a product of the Simi Valley Unified school district, having attended Madera, Sinaloa, and then Royal. This is my 28th year teaching and my 22nd here at Sinaloa. I believe in the importance of learning science through hands-on experiments and activities. I look forward to a good year and hope each of you will achieve a great deal of academic growth, personal growth, and success. To help you succeed, carefully review the following information:

Course Outline

I. Course Standards/Objectives

The Integrated Model for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) determine our areas of study. 8TH grade science will focus on these areas:

- Semester 1: *Evolution, Earth's Resources, Solar System & Beyond*
- Semester 2:Force & Motion, Fields & Interactions, Waves

These areas will be covered using an investigative and experimentation approach. We will be doing many hands-on activities, as well as learning through reading, videos, demonstrations, discussions, and independent work. Students will be required to collaborate and communicate their learning through oral presentations, written formal lab write ups, and open ended authentic assessments.

II. Classroom Management and Expectations

In this classroom:

- Students are expected to follow rules of the agenda book and safety contract.
- If a student chooses to adhere to these expectations, opportunities for academic and personal growth will abound and any love of science will be nurtured.
- If a student chooses to disregard these expectations, consequences will be assigned that may include: the student may lose the privilege of participating in an activity or lab, the student may be sent out of the classroom for the remainder of the period to complete an alternative assignment, detention may be assigned, a referral may be issued, and suspension from the class for 1 to 2 day may be requested.
- Student behavior choices and tardies will be reflected in their Citizenship grade.

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. Your student will demonstrate mastery in this class by:

- Assessments (Tests, Quizzes, Projects) (30% of grade)
- Final Experiment (25% of grade)
- Labs (25% of grade)
- Classwork (20% of grade)

Work not turned in will count against a student's grade. **Late work will only be accepted in the current quarter and will be given partial credit.** Students will be given advance notice of the final deadline for late work at the end of each quarter. **Late work will be graded at the end of the quarter**, before quarter report cards are completed.

Students will be provided time in class to complete work. If that time is used wisely, there shouldn't be any homework beyond studying for assessments and the required, personal Final Experiment. Students with IEP/504/Medical accommodations for time extensions need to check in with the teacher to show good faith effort has been made for full credit.

As a responsible student, you need to be aware of your daily assignments. **If you are absent, please check the postings in Google Classroom, ask a fellow classmate, or email the teacher.** Work missed while absent needs to be completed and turned in in relation to the number of days the student was absent.

The following standard grading scale will apply:

90% – 100% A, 80% - 89% B, 70 – 79% C, 60 – 69% D, less than 60% F

IV. Academic Dishonesty & Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a zero for that assignment and a parent contact. Turning in work that a student did not personally create (the use of ChatGPT, AI, or copied/pasted material) is considered cheating &/or plagiarism. Any subsequent offenses will result in an Administrative Referral and potential removal from the IM Program.

V. Communication

I am available in room D-11 for any questions or help. If you have any questions, comments, or ideas to share, please send me an e-mail at: corrine.lightfoot@simivalleyusd.org.

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. Information regarding specific standards can be found at www.cde.ca.gov.

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