

Cluster 7B Vanguard Science

☺ www.cluster7b.com ☺

What to Expect This Year:

- You are in an accelerated science program. That means that instead of learning just one year of science content, you have to learn 1 and ½; half a year of 7th grade science and the entire 8th grade science curriculum.
- You will be doing a LOT of reading, especially at home. We do not have the time in class to linger on subjects because you did not do your at home preparation (reading, homework, lab, etc). Class time is for further explaining the concepts and ideas that you read in your textbooks and doing labs, demonstrations, and other fun stuff.
- You will be expected to type your lab reports and write conclusions that reflect scientific thought. No longer will you be able to write “I thought this lab was fun” and get a passing grade. You will need to be able to explain (not just describe) and use science terms in your writing and generally write like you know what you’re talking about ☺.
- When you don’t understand something, you will be expected to seek out the answer. That means it’s up to you to ask me questions, come to tutorials, look it up on the internet, or whatever it takes for you to be able to understand. If you wait till the day of the test to ask a question, it’s too late.

Daily supplies to be brought to class every day:

- Lab Composition Notebook
- Lanier Planner
- Highlighter
- Mechanical Pencil
- Blue/Black Pen
- Grading Pen (any color but blue/black)

The Lanier Planner – The planner is to help YOU. You will write both the **agenda** **AND** **homework assignment** in your planner, plus any important dates that have posted e.g. extra credit due date, test dates, etc.

Lab Composition Notebook – Students will record notes and input daily assignments in this notebook. **I will periodically collect these books to check over work completed and students will be allowed to use them for occasional unannounced “open notebook quizzes”.** If a student does not have his/her notebook at the time of the quiz, his/her grade will be greatly affected. Therefore, it is imperative that this notebook is brought to class each and everyday.

Gradesheets – Students will be responsible for keeping a current gradesheet in his/her notebook. As a class we will enter grades on this gradesheet and it is the responsibility for you and your parent to be aware of your grade at all times.

Textbooks – All students will be issued 8th Grade Prentice Hall Textbooks to use throughout the school year. Students may be required to bring the books to school occasionally.

Assignments

- All lab work should be completed in pencil; all other assignments in blue or black pen.
- Students are expected to complete all assignments, participate in class, and keep an organized lab composition notebook.
- **It is the responsibility of the student** to check my classroom website for missed assignments work (and complete the work if possible) BEFORE returning to school.

Grades

- Nine-week grades will be based on the total points possible for the grading period:

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|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Homework /Classwork | 20 points per assignment |
| Quizzes/Labs | 200 points/double grade |
| Tests and Projects | 300 points/triple grade |

- **There will be a 30 point penalty for any work that is late.**
- **Homework/Class work will not be accepted late since the work will usually be graded the next class period.**
 - This does not include work that is late due to excused absences; however, when students are absent from class for any reason they are expected to make up work missed in a timely manner. Students that miss less than a week of school are expected to turn in make-up assignments within ONE week of their return.
- **Late work will ONLY be accepted up to ONE week after its original due date.**

If your work is over a week late, it is no longer of any value because we will have moved onto another topic. Therefore, it is cluster policy that work over a week late will only be accepted for extended absences or special circumstances.