

Visitation School

Junior High Science

 **Course Policies 2015 - 2016**

#  Mrs. Claire Bush

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 **Website:** **mrsbushvs.weebly.com**

## Required Materials

1. A spiral notebook for lecture/discussion notes

2. A folder/binder for class work and handouts

3. Blue or black ink pens, hi-lighters, and pencils

4. Access to a computer.

5. Prentice Hall Science Texts

##### Course Description

The junior high science program will explore the concepts of earth, life, and physical science. We will begin with the basics of each branch of science for the respective grade and then incorporate other branches where pertinent and/or necessary.

Since science is advanced by observation and experimentation, hands-on and interactive activities will be incorporated into the curriculum as often as possible. Limited lab materials may require students to bring materials from home to contribute to these exercises. Limited lab time may require improvisation as well. **Appropriate behavior and adherence to guidelines in the lab will be expected at all times to provide a safe learning environment for all students. This includes being prepared for class with the required materials and information.**

An e-book will be available for the students to access their textbooks on line. The class roster should be activated by the end of the second week of school. This is a very useful tool for the students as it eliminates the problem of forgotten books as well as helps in preparing them for high school.

##### Grading Policy

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles’s grading scale will be used as explained in the Visitation Calendar/Handbook. The following are approximate grading percentages for the course work.

 Tests: 40%\*

 Homework/Classwork: 20%

 Homework Quizzes/labs: 30%

 Quizzes: 10%

 \*This value may change.

**Evaluation Policy**

* Tests will be given at the end of each chapter or section. Make-up tests will be given at the teacher’s discretion.
* Homework will be assigned regularly to reinforce material presented in class. Missing homework assignments or projects will be given a 0%. Late work will only be accepted in the case of an absence.
* One late or missing assignment will be accepted with no penalty per trimester. Any late assignments after that will be accepted at 50% of the corrected grade. Late work must be turned in within a timely manner.
* Quizzes will occasionally be given to check for specific understanding, for example: the steps of the scientific method.
* “Homework Quizzes” will be given at the end of each section covered. Homework quizzes are a simple and quick check to ensure that the students are correcting their homework assignments in class and keeping them for reference. They will be asked to transfer a selection of homework answers to an answer sheet and these will be graded and entered as an HWQ grade. Homework quizzes will be worth a higher percentage towards the final class grade because they encompass subject understanding, study habits, and attention to detail.
* Quizzes may be made up if an acceptable reason for missing it is given.
* No extra credit will be available, however extra credit opportunities will likely be given on tests/quizzes.
* Classroom participation is very important. The students are expected to actively participate in all discussions and activities pertaining to the class.
* Rubrics will be used as often as possible in grading labs and interactive assignments.

**Academic Integrity**

Per the Parent-Student Handbook, policy #7080:

**“It is expected that Visitation students understand and practice academic integrity and honesty. Any form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.”**

Academic Plagiarism is defined on page 33. This includes copying someone else’s work, whether it is homework or a test. No cheating will be tolerated and immediate action will be taken.

**Contact Information**

My email address is cbush@visitationschool.org and my phone number is 310/645-6620 extension 214. My website is: **mrsbushvs.weebly.com** Homework, assignments, tests and announcements will be posted here. Tests will be posted approximately two weeks in advance in order to give students ample notice. Every effort is made to keep the website as current as possible with any daily updates and/or changes. **However, it is important to note that the final word and most up-to-date reference for students will be their homework boards in their classrooms.** The homework boards will immediately reflect any changes to homework or test dates and should be the final reference source.



**SIGNATURE PAGE (Please return by Tuesday, September 8)**

**I, as a parent, have read and understand the class policies and agree to support my son/daughter toward a successful year in science!**

**Parent’s printed name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent’s signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Telephone number\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I, as a student, will do my best to abide by the rules of the classroom with kindness and respect, and will work hard to succeed with integrity!**

**Student’s printed name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student’s signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

