

Visitation School

Junior High Science

 **Course Policies 2021 - 2022**

#  Mrs. Claire Bush

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## Required Materials

1. A spiral notebook or loose-leaf paper for lecture/discussion notes

2. A three-ring binder for class work and handouts

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

4. Fully charged Chromebooks to access STEMscopes website

5. Prentice Hall Science Texts

##### Course Description

The junior high science program will explore the concepts of earth/planetary, life, and physical science according to the STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) philosophy, in order to follow the guidelines laid out by the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). This will be accomplished by implementing our digital science program called STEMscopes.

According to the U.S. Department of Education:

“… In a world that’s becoming increasingly complex, where success is driven not only by **what**you know, but by what you **can do** with what you know, it’s more important than ever for our youth to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to solve tough problems, gather and evaluate evidence, and make sense of information. These are the types of skills that students learn by studying science, technology, engineering, and math—subjects collectively known as STEM.”

Within the NGSS, there are three important dimensions to learning science. These three facets work together to help students develop a more cohesive understanding of science. The three dimensions are **crosscutting, practices, and core ideas**.

**Crosscutting concepts** help students make connections across the four different areas of science. Those areas being physical science, earth/space science, life science, and engineering design. **Science and engineering practices** describe what scientists do to investigate the branches of science and what engineers do to design and build systems. **Disciplinary core ideas** are the main ideas within each of the areas of science and within engineering.

The program Visitation is using is called STEMscopes. It is an entirely digital, online program. There is the option to print the material; however, in the interest of the environment and lower contact rates, we will try to work online in class. If there are materials that need to be printed for a lab or activity, these will be assigned ahead of time in order for the materials to be printed at home. **The students are expected to stay focused and on the appropriate websites while we are in science class.**

Since science is advanced by observation and experimentation, hands-on and interactive activities are incorporated into the curriculum as often as possible. Labs are difficult to make up; therefore, attendance the day of a lab observation/discussion day is important. Absences occur, however, when possible, appointments should be scheduled on days other than pre-determined lab days. **Visitation will not be offering a hybrid learning environment this year and Zoom classes will not be an option if a student is absent.** Additional assistance is sometimes needed and parent help is greatly appreciated. Family service hours can be given for lab setup, assistance, and breakdown.

**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. Following the teacher’s and/or parent’s instructions is mandatory during labs to prevent injury and/or accidents.**

##### 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.

 Assessments/Tests/Major Projects: 35%

 Homework/Classwork: 30%

 Projects/activities/labs/quizzes: 35%

 \*These values may change.

**Evaluation Policy**

* Assessments, tests, or some sort of final project will be given at the end of each unit/section.
* 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 or a reasonable explanation.
* 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” may be given at the end of each unit/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 corrected 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.
* Extra credit is typically not available, however small extra credit opportunities will likely be given on tests/quizzes in the form of optional extra questions.
* 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.
* All assignments, tests, notices and important schoolwide and sixth grade homeroom information will be posted on the students’ Google Classroom.

**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, and claiming it as one’s own. 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, however the best way to contact me will be via email. Homework, assignments, tests and announcements will be posted on the students’ Google Classroom. Tests and major assessments will be posted approximately two weeks in advance in order to give students ample notice.

There will be a section of the whiteboard in sixth grades homeroom dedicated to homework. **However, it is important to note that the final word and most up-to-date reference for students will be their Google Classroom sites.** The homework boards will immediately reflect any changes to homework or test dates and should be considered a secondary reference source.

**Addendum:**

If the Coronavirus protocol that Visitation follows, dictates we conduct classes remotely, the junior high will reinstate the following **Zoom Guidelines/Etiquette:**

1. Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled Zooms. If you are unable to attend your parent/guardian must email the office as well as myself. Attendance will be taken.
2. Your camera must be ON, and you must be seated in a well-lit area where your face can be seen. This means a designated work place, not your bed.
3. You must be muted, unless it is your turn to contribute.
4. Only **one** electronic device should be used for the Zoom sessions.
5. Do not eat during our Zoom sessions.
6. Please remove all distractions from the immediate surroundings. This includes pets, and toys.
7. No virtual backgrounds of any kind.
8. The name that appears on Zoom should be your given name or established nickname, nothing else.
9. Uniforms are not required, but please dress appropriately for our class time together.

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**SIGNATURE PAGE (Please return by Friday, September 17)**

**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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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

**Contact 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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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

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

**Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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