

Welcome to Mrs. Valentine's Physical Science Class!

Contact Information

Email: aevalentine@nrms.k12.nc.us

Phone: 252.937.9040

Room: 400

Office Hours: Thursdays 2:40-3:40p

Classroom Rules (Students will receive a warning, and then be sent to chill out for subsequent violations)

1. **Respect yourself, others, and this place.** Be polite, supportive, and safe. Raise your hand during discussions or for questions. Wait for your turn to speak, and do not interrupt. No swearing or teasing. Keep your hands, feet, and other objects to yourself. Help keep the classroom clean and orderly. Follow all rules in the Student Handbook.
2. **Be prepared for class.** Arrive on time. Be in your seat when the last bell rings. Always bring your notebook full of lined paper, a pen or pencil, your planner, your Macbook, and a *reading book*.
3. **Participate to the best of your ability.** Follow directions the first time they are given. Ask questions and try your best to answer the ones you are asked. Stay on task when working on independent and group assignments.
4. **Use technology responsibly.** All use of technology in class should be for class related activities only. Cell phones may not be out or used in class unless specific permission is given. Permission does not carry forward to future days or activities. **Having a cell phone out during a formal assessment will result in a zero on that assessment.**
5. **Put away food and drinks.** For safety reasons, and in accordance with school policy, students are not permitted to eat or drink in the classroom, including water. If a student needs to take a sip during class, he or she must ask permission first.
6. **Plan ahead.** Anticipate your needs. Students are expected to use the facilities prior to the start of class, and will not be permitted to leave class for this purpose during the first 60 minutes of class in order to minimize disruptions. You have six bathroom passes for the semester, *three* for each term. Passes may be kept in the card file at the front of the room. If the card is lost, so are the passes. Additional bathroom passes may be earned through a variety of tasks as needed. Exceptions will be made for documented medical needs.

Grading Scales:

Assignment Grades	
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

Term Grades	
Tests and Projects	60%
Daily Grades	40%

Course Grade	
T1	40%
T2	40%
Final	20%

Comments may be added to the grades in the grade book indicating a note about an assignment, especially concerning missing pieces of an assignment. Please be sure to click on assignments to read these. The following codes will be used for other purposes:

Grade	Meaning
1 ^M	The assignment is no longer eligible for credit.
2 ^L	The assignment is late and may be turned in until the unit test for up to 80% credit.
3	Absentee work: the assignment is due 5 days upon student return for full credit.
50 or 50 ^L	The assignment is accepted and shows a valid effort, but earns a 50 or less.
>50	Grade Earned

Tests and Projects: (Check both knowledge and proficiency.)

Tests will be announced at least two days in advance, and the last day of a unit will be used for review. Students absent for this review will still take the test on time. Each test will count twice in this category. Quizzes will be given frequently, may or may not be announced in advance, and will be timed. Each quiz will count once in this category. You may retake a "Test" or scheduled "Quiz" to improve its score up to 80 until term grades close. All projects count as test grades. Students will be expected to participate in group projects this semester. If a student chooses not to participate with their group, they may receive a "0."

Daily Work: (Check both knowledge and proficiency.)

Notebook checks will account for note taking, assignments present, and the labeling and organization of contents. If I cannot readily identify assignments or notes, they will count as not there. Late notebook checks take a 20% late penalty and will not be accepted more than 5 days after when due. Activity labs and assignments will be given daily and will include both online assignments as well as paper assignments. All due dates will be posted on Edmodo. Some assignments may be graded as "valid attempts." I reserve judgment as to whether an attempt is valid. For all assignments, answers should be the right type and clear how they were derived. Names (first and last), date, block, and a unique assignment title should be on all assignments submitted on paper. Students will receive a weekly class participation grade that can be monitored by both parents and students on ClassDojo.com. Codes will be sent home on paper.

Defending Work:

Students may be asked to demonstrate the process used to arrive at an answer. Right or wrong, you should be able to show how you found an answer. If you cannot or will not, I will assume you did not actually do the work, and the assignment will receive a "0."

Make-Up Work:

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain your make-up work. Assignments will be posted on Edmodo, and a hard copy may be found in the absentee box in the classroom. Missed tests/quizzes/labs must be scheduled with me upon your return to class. Online assignments should be completed on-time from home if at all possible.

All make-up work must be turned in within five school days after your return for on-time credit, including taking tests and quizzes. Exceptions may be made for extended absences at the teacher's discretion. If you are absent on an assignment's due date, the assignment will be due upon your return.

Late Work: (Just in case life gets in the way.)

Work will be considered late if handed in after the assigned due date, at which point it will receive a 20% penalty until the end of the unit for which it is assigned (marked by the test date). Work turned in after this point will not receive credit. Remembering to turn in late work is solely the student's responsibility. Life sometimes gets in the way of schoolwork. I expect students to communicate with me about difficulties *before* an assignment is late.

NOTE: Lack of internet access at home is not an excuse for late work. Before you leave class each day, you should save a copy of your assignment to your hard drive. If you are a day user, you should also print a copy.

Getting Help: (We all need help sometimes.)

- I am available for tutoring on Thursdays from 2:30-3:40pm without an appointment; if these times do not work with you, e-mail me to set up an appointment and I will do my best to meet with you at a more convenient time.
- Tests and quizzes are meant to assess your knowledge. You may **not** seek help from classmates nor provide it. You may **not** use notes or any other resource (except calculators) not specifically stated on the test or quiz. I will clarify the questions but not tell you how to do it nor say if answers are correct.
- Other than during tests and quizzes, your first resource should be your notes. If still stuck, quietly ask your group to explain the material; however, peers may **not** provide you answers. You may be asked to defend your work, so be sure you understand any help received. If these resources fail you, ask me and I will reteach your group.

Communications: (Let me know what you need.)

- Students can log into Edmodo, CK-12, and my website to see notes, announcements and assignments for the class from anywhere they have internet access. Join codes will be on the board the first day.
- Short-fused class announcements will be sent over Remind 101. Parents and students can subscribe for these announcements. Directions for joining are posted in Edmodo.
- Weekly updates will be sent via e-mail to all parents and students. I will be using the students' school e-mail addresses for these updates.
- You can contact me at the information above or through my website.

Materials needed for this class: (Have out at the start of class each day.)

Graphing Paper Composition Notebook

Pencils

Scientific Calculator (may borrow from class set during class)

Student weekly planner (may be electronic)

Your Macbook once assigned (adequately charged for the class or with its power supply)

Dry erase markers (for whiteboard use)

Closed-toe shoes

RETURN FORM

Teacher: Amy Valentine

Email: aevalentine@nrms.k12.nc.us

Phone: 252.937.9040

Room: 400

Dear Parents,

Please review the attached Class Expectations with your child and keep them for your reference. They are also posted in Edmodo. Have your child detach and turn in this Return Form once filled out and signed.

Please contact me with any questions you have; the best way is email. I look forward to working with you.

Highlights for Parents

- By far the best way you can support your child's learning is to ensure I can contact you.
- Cell phones and computers can distract from learning. For this reason, I expect your child to keep cell phones put away unless granted specific, prior permission and to use other technology responsibly.
- Having a cell phone out during a test or scheduled quiz will result in a zero on that test or quiz.
- Students may be asked to explain their process verbally for answers on any work they submit. This is a sampling system to verify the originality of student work and comprehension of the material.
- Regular tutoring is available after school on Thursdays from 2:40-3:40pm without an appointment. I will work with your schedules for other appointments to the best of my ability.
- Students currently earning above 90 are called "Aces" and are recognized by name on the board.

Student's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Phone number(s): _____

Parent's Email address(es): _____

Does your child have access to the internet at home (Circle one)? YES NO

Anything special I should know?

Parent's Signature: _____