



# Honors Integrated Science

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2 - 3 pm, or by appointment

## *New Fairfield High School*

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*Mission: New Fairfield High School strives to provide a safe educational environment in which all students acquire the knowledge and skills to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens within a diverse society and changing world.*

### **Course overview:**

Integrated Science includes the study of Chemistry and Physics and applying these concepts to the study of geology, oceanography, meteorology and astronomy. Students are first given a solid foundation in chemistry and physics so that they can apply these sciences to the Earth processes that affect us now and tomorrow. Students will explore the importance of clean water sources, energy resources, weather prediction and examination of earth materials and minerals. Students will also be given the opportunity to problem-solve, both in the laboratory and in the classroom. These skills will enhance the students' abilities to make sound decisions about issues in our lives as individuals and citizens.

### **Textbook:**

Prentice Hall: Physical Science Concepts in Action with Earth and Space Science © 2006

### **Grading criteria:**

Each assignment will be evaluated using a point system. Each grade is found by dividing the total number of points earned by the student by the total number of points possible. The grade will be weighted according to the following:

- **Objective Assessment: 20%**
  - Includes homework, quizzes, short-answer exam sections and scientific reading assignments
- **Open Ended and Problem Solving Assessment: 40%**
  - Includes open-ended and essay exam sections, research papers and presentations
- **Laboratory Assessment: 40%**
  - Includes data analysis, laboratory reports and laboratory notebook

### **Notes:**

- Students are responsible for beginning all assignments early enough to avoid computer problems.
- *Comprehensive Exams* will be announced at least 3 days in advance and will include a short-answer section and an open-ended/essay section. Each section will be weighted according to the above grading policy. Practice questions will be available prior to the exam.
- *Homework* is due each class day and students are expected to complete each assignment.

- *Quizzes* are given to students on a periodic basis to assess their progress on topics prior to exams. They are not always announced in advance. Students have the opportunity and are encouraged to retake quizzes within 2 weeks of the original quiz date. Only one retake of each quiz is permitted. The higher of the two quiz grades will stand.
- *Laboratory Reports* should be written according to the “Writing Your Lab Reports” guide handed out at the beginning of the year. Reports will be graded using the New Fairfield Science Department Grading Rubric.
- *Laboratory Notebooks* should be maintained by each student according to the “Keeping a Laboratory Notebook” handout. The notebook itself should be a composition notebook with gridlines for graphing data. Students are responsible for bringing their laboratory notebooks to class each lab day and any other day as requested by the teacher. A 5 point deduction will be taken from the corresponding laboratory report for students who must leave the lab to get their notebook. They will be collected and graded once each quarter.
- *Scientific Reading Assignments*, to which students are asked to respond with a scientific abstract according to the format provided, will be assigned each 8-day cycle.
- An *Extra Credit Project* is offered once per quarter. Students will be presented with project choices and a due date within the first two weeks of the pertaining quarter. Students must turn in an extra credit proposal at least two weeks prior to the end of the quarter.

### **Required materials:**

Each student is expected to be prepared for class each day with the following:

- 3-ring binder
- Homework and any other assignments due
- Composition notebook with graphing pages dedicated to science labs
- Pens, pencils
- Ruler
- Textbook
- Scientific calculator

### **Make-up work:**

*Homework* is due on time every class day. If a student is absent, he/she will have 1-2 days to hand in the missing homework. Homework assigned the day he/she was absent will not be due until a time agreed upon by the student and teacher.

Missed *exams* and *quizzes* must be completed within 5 days of the original exam/quiz date. If this cannot be done, students are responsible for discussing the extenuating circumstances to the teacher.

If a student is absent on *laboratory* day, he/she is responsible for arranging a time with the teacher to make up the laboratory activity as soon as possible and to agree on a due date. If a student is absent after the laboratory, he/she is still responsible for turning in the laboratory report on time, except in the case of an extended absence or some other extenuating circumstance, which the student is responsible for discussing with the teacher. Otherwise, 10 points will be deducted for late laboratory reports.

## **Expectations of an active learner:**

An active learner

- attends every class and on time
- comes prepared daily with all required materials
- takes class notes
- participates in class discussions
- *seeks extra help when necessary*
- uses the ten-minute break appropriately to take care of personal needs
- adheres to the make-up policy