Deer Valley Unified School District No. 97

DEER VALLEY MIDDLE

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| **Course** | **Science 7th Grade** |  |  |
| **Teacher** | **Fouts** | **Email** | **robin.fouts@dvusd.org** |
| **Room** | **401** | **Voicemail** |  |

**Welcome**

Welcome to DVMS 7th Grade Science for the 2013-2014 school year. **This year will be filled with many exciting opportunities for you to explore the world on which we live… and beyond! Through hands-on activities and by using a variety of resources, we will journey through the curriculum as designated by the Deer Valley Unified School District. We believe strongly in helping students achieve their maximum potential through hard work, high expectations, and teamwork. We make learning fun!!**

**Course Description**

Earth and space science are the primary concepts of this course.  We will review the scientific inquiry process and draw conclusions based on our findings.

**Course Objectives**

Enduring Understandings:

* Geological processes and environmental conditions are involved in the formation of Earth’s structures and can change over time.
* Earth’s geological components can be classified and described based on physical properties.
* There is a relationship among objects in the solar system, galaxy, and the universe.
* Ecosystems consist of complex interactions between organisms and the environment.

My vision is for each student to achieve a Meets or Exceeds on the 2013 AIMS Science test as well as the Deer Valley Semester benchmarks. Students will achieve this through multiple PDSA Goal cycles which will include hands on interaction, videos, notes, reading, writing and discussion of scientific topics.

**Materials/Supplies**

Students will be provided a notebook (3 ring binder style) to place course material as well as a progress tracking form in the inside front cover. **Students will need their notebook, paper and a writing utensil EVERY DAY** as these will be our tools for success. Notebook’s may be stored in backpacks or classroom cupboards at student discretion. If they are lost or damaged beyond effective use for 5 consecutive class periods, students will owe teacher 30 minutes of housekeeping to obtain a new one. Supplementary handouts and activities will be used throughout each goal to support learning. Classroom sets of markers, crayons, colored pencils, and glue will be provided to complete all activities; however, students may to bring personal supplies if desired. Students may also check textbooks out of the library for further reference, however, they will not be assigned one for science class.

**Classroom Expectations - RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, CARING**

Students are expected be in the room when the bell rings. After placing bags on shelves in the back of the room, they should be in their seat with their science notebook, writing utensil and any other directed materials. We will be moving quickly through lessons and activities to get everything accomplished. Students are expected to be silent, still and scribing during teacher time. Student work time should be quiet, cooperative and on-task. Interruptions to classroom environment and learning time will be given the following consequences:

1. Warning – any interruption in learning time that requires discussion of behavior
2. Relocation – Students will be asked to move to another location within the classroom
3. Contact and Referral – Parent will be contacted and referred to administration.

**ALL Deer Valley Middle School rules will be enforced** – **NO exceptions.** The overall goal is to make this class as safe, learning-focused, and as inspiring as possible for every student.

**Communication**

* **Progress Reports**
	+ Progress reports are available upon request or can be viewed through Power Schools.
* **Discussion**
	+ It is imperative that teachers , parents and students maintain open lines of communication. Email is the most efficient way to keep in touch, as I can check it periodically throughout the day. Voicemails will be checked and returned at the end of each day.
* **Course Information**
	+ Website will be updated weekly with documents, schedule and resources for students to use.
* **PowerSchools Access Information**
	+ PowerSchools is the most powerful communication tool that parents and teachers have. The PowerSchools’ site allows parents/guardians and students to access the student’s grades, attendance, and other information. Parent/Guardian login information can be granted through the front office with an I.D.
	+ The web address is: <http://ps.dvusd.org/public/>

**Grading Policy**

* 70% Assessments (tests, quizzes, projects)
* 30% Assignments (classwork, homework, labs)
* Students allowed to makeup work or re-do assignments to achieve mastery within the same unit.
* Beginning 2012-2013, all students must pass all 4 academic core classes to promote to the next grade level.

**Late/Incomplete Work Policy**

* **Class assignments** are due by the end of the class period or on the specified date. ONE late pass will be issued each academic quarter (life happens – use it wisely) for an assignment submitted late or incomplete. After it is used, late and incomplete work will receive 50% credit.
* **Long-term assignments** (any task due 5 or more days after it is assigned) are due on the assigned due date. Extenuating circumstances must be discussed with the instructor BEFORE the due date.

**Absent Work Policy**

* District guideline: for everyday a student is absent he/she will have two days to make up any work missed for full credit.
* It is the **student’s** **responsibility** to gather work when they are absent and get assignments turned back into the teacher for grading.
* Labs are not able to be made up: knowledge will be gained through other classroom opportunities.

**Teacher Tutoring Times or Extra Opportunity**

Teacher is available by appointment on Wednesdays for afterschool help from 3:10pm-4:10pm with bus transportation provided for at 4:15pm.

The Deer Valley Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. For any inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Superintendent's Department, 20402 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027. 623.445.5000.

**Print Student’s Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Hour:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **DVMS 8th Grade Science**

**Excellence + Action = Student Success**

**First Assignment – Acceptance of Terms and Conditions/Policies**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are all very excited to start another great year at DVMS! The 8th grade science department goal is to create a safe, respectful, and learning-focused environment for all students.

With every class, we send home a copy of the course syllabus for parents/guardians to review along with their students. The syllabus is an instrument to let you know how the class will be conducted and what is expected from the students. Please read over this syllabus and discuss the information and expectations with your child. If there are any questions, we encourage you to contact your student’s teacher as soon as possible. *Please do not write comments on this paper*.

Parents **MUST** initial beside each of the following statements, as well as sign and date at the bottom.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I understand that I can check my student’s grades using PowerSchool.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I authorize my child to view videos of educational importance with the rating of G and/or PG.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I authorize my child to create a free Google email account to work on projects with peers.

Once you have read over the syllabus and discussed it with your student, please sign, have your student sign and return it to his/her science teacher. Your student’s first assignment is to return this signed document on or before **Friday, August 17, 2012**. It is important that this is returned to ensure there are no problems in the future.

**Student’s Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian’s Signature**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_