

# Room 48 Science Class Contract

2014-2015

## I. Welcome to 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade SCIENCE.

It brings me great honor to be your teacher. Over the next ten months we will explore our scientific understanding in a fun, meaningful and challenging way. We hope to engage and explore over 40 different labs and activities. We will strengthen our ability to construct sound scientific arguments through claims, evidence and reasoning (C.E.R.). You should strive to make your thinking visible and take risks!

## II. About me



Teacher: Mr. Jason Souza  
Bachelors in Cell & Molecular Biology [Minor: Chemistry]  
- Long Beach State (California, 2007)  
Masters in Science Education  
- Northeastern University (Boston MA, 2011)  
Room: #48  
Email: [jsouza@mvschools.org](mailto:jsouza@mvschools.org)

## III. Required Materials

- 1) One 3-ring binder [1" or 1.5"]. This binder lives in your book bag, and is needed in class everyday. Please be organized!
- 2) Dividers (5 or 6) – Do Now, HW, Notes, LABS, T&Q + REF.
- 2) Pencils, pens (**red pens too**), highlighters, glue sticks and erasers.
- 3) A free account to access online textbooks. There is **NO** take home book for this course. Visit class website: <http://www.mvschools.org/Domain/464>
  - a) User Name: **mvmspanther**
  - b) Password: **panthers1**

## IV. Class Rules/Expectations

1) Core Values – All individuals in the classroom are required to treat one another with courtesy and **RESPECT**. Students will accept **RESPONSIBILITY** for all of their actions, thoughts and words. It is understood that success is directly related to a deep **LOVE OF LEARNING!**

2) Room 48 is a **SAFE** space and **BULLY-FREE ZONE**. All students and adults will be treated equally regardless of gender, race, religion, affiliation, or sexual orientation etc... Because we will perform numerous labs and activities, you will be given the opportunity to work with many different partners.

3) Bathroom/Water Fountain – Students should ask for permission to leave the classroom. **ONE** student at a time may sign out of class to make appropriate use of the facilities. Upon return, the next student may sign out. Please do **NOT** ask to sign out during a slide show lecture or class discussion. Those who abuse the sign out privilege will be dealt with accordingly.

4) Three “3” Strikes – If it is the case that an individual’s behavior and/or focus is off task or out-of-line, he/she will:

- a) 1<sup>st</sup> be **asked** to re-focus and/or behave appropriately.
- b) 2<sup>nd</sup> be **told** to re-focus and/or behave appropriately.
- c) 3<sup>rd</sup> be eligible for further removal from the classroom and/or disciplinary action.

5) Off limits – At NO TIME shall any student...

- a) ...Be behind the teacher’s desk.
- b) ...Remove lab equipment/chemicals from the classroom.
- c) ...Engage in horseplay.
- d) ...Act in an unsafe manner.

6) When in Doubt – If you’re unsure, ask. Forgot? Ask again.

7) Electronic devices – ALL **personal** electronic devices (cell phones, i-pods, etc...) are strictly prohibited from use during the school day. Violators will have their device taken from them, stored and returned at the end of the school day. Refer to the MVMS Behavior & Tech Forms.

8) Food, Candy, Gum – are **NOT** allowed in Room #48. Please finish or remove any such food/candy/gum before taking your seat. Water is okay for class, but not for labs.

9) Special Circumstance – All employed adults within MVMS are empowered to exercise sound judgment with respect to the rules listed above and/or allow special circumstance as they see fit.

## V. Assessments/Grading

- Grade categories are NOT weighted. Assignments & assessments have their weighted value built in to the points that they are worth.

Homework & Formative Assessments	Tests & Quizzes	Effort, Focus & Participation
<p><b>Check Website Daily!</b></p> <p>Weekly readings. Weekly video clips.</p> <p>1-2 written assignments per week; worth 10-20 points each. Assignments are usually started in class.</p> <p>1-3 Graded <b>LABS</b> per month, worth 10-20 points each. Teacher discretion.</p>	<p>1-2 Paper &amp; Pencil Quizzes per month; typically worth 50 points.</p> <p>You can also expect some additional mini-quizzes to be online (Google forms) 20 points each.</p> <p>Projects/Presentations TBD.</p>	<p>Class discussions, productive talk.</p> <p>Daily preparedness for class &amp; working well with others.</p> <p>In this category, teacher discretion is applied to decide "Border-line" scenarios for a term grade.</p>

- Generally speaking, **I do not give re-takes**. I will try to have a small extra credit assignment posted for each term. Re-takes and extra credit are at the teacher's discretion and change from term to term.
- **UNEXCUSED LATE WORK** – Work that is late, without a valid excuse, drops a letter grade for each school day that it is late. If you do the work, I will give you points. The lowest score you will receive on late work is 60% of its value. **NOTE:** It is better to have \$6 in the bank, than \$0. Get your work in!!!

### Grading Scale

%	59 - ↓	60-63	64-67	68-69	70-73	74-77	78-79	80-83	84-87	88-89	90-93	94-99	100↑
	F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+

\* You will have unlimited support, meaning that there will always be resources available to those students whom make intelligent use of them; albeit 1:1 with a teacher, website, book or supplemental support documents.

**VI. How to Study** – This section tells you how to be successful in studying for an assessment. **In order of importance**, the best "things" to study are:

- 1) Class Lecture Notes (from power point slide shows). **VOCAB!!**
- 2) The guided reading (GR) worksheets for that content. **VOCAB!!**
- 3) Practice quizzes and/or additional study guides. **VOCAB!!**

**VII. Class Website** – Our class website is loaded with a wealth of user-friendly "point & click" information to support your educational needs. Please make it your habit to visit the site DAILY:

- <http://www.mvschools.org/Domain/464>

## VIII. Extra Help – The best time to receive extra help from Mr. Souza is:

School Day	Fall	Winter	Spring
Before	7:40 – 8:00 am daily	7:40 - 8:00 am daily	7:40 - 8:00 am daily
During	Lunch or Panther Time, by appointment.	Lunch or Panther Time, by appointment.	Lunch or Panther Time, by appointment.
After	Not available	Available, please schedule ahead of time.	Not available
Email	Any time	Any time	Any time

IX. Learning Forecast: Below you will find a **tentative** outline for the topics that we will explore in each term.

	GRADE 7 Biology	GRADE 8 Physics/Chemistry
FALL Term 1	C.E.R. Cell Biology Earth & Life History	C.E.R. Structure of Matter Periodic Table
Winter Term 2	Evolution Genetics	Reactions Sex Ed. Chemistry in Living Systems
Spring Term 3	Anatomy & Physiology <i>Optional</i> Dissections	Forces & Motion Earth in the Solar System Density & Buoyancy

Link for CA Science Standards: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/sciencetnd.pdf>  
NGSS Link: <http://www.nextgenscience.org/next-generation-science-standards>

X. Donations – Sometimes it is the case that you/your family wants to donate useful items or time for science instruction. If this is true, here is a list of items that we regularly need:

- Latex-free disposable gloves.
- Sanitizers, liquid pump soaps, zip lock bags & paper towels.
- Balloons, toothpicks, batteries, & colored pencils.
- If your parent/guardian works in a science-related field (**medical, vet, lab, professor, research, etc...**) AND would like to be a presenter, you can best arrange that through email: [jsouza@mvschools.org](mailto:jsouza@mvschools.org)