Science 9 – Course Outline

Welcome to Science 9! Because of COVID-19, we will be alternating between in-school classes and remote online assignments. The online assignments serve as introductions to each topic we will be learning about this year. They can be completed asynchronously at your own pace. The in-school classes will be primarily project-based. They will feature lots of hands-on work, in safe groups, that can only be safely and effectively performed in a science classroom.

All remote instruction will be done via Microsoft Teams. If you are not already enrolled in the course, please see me immediately. There will be no live (synchronous) online classes that you must attend; all work can be completed at the time of your choosing.

During the remote classes, you are expected to work as many hours as during the in-person classes. To ensure you are progressing through the work, each student will have a short meeting with me at least once per week. These meetings will be in-person during in-class weeks, and will use Microsoft Teams during online weeks.

Our in-class work will assume that you have already completed the online work that has been assigned, as you will need to know the background online information to do the in-class projects.

Curriculum  
This class is built around the curriculum provided by the BC Ministry of Education. The curriculum can be found at:

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/science/9>   
  
The curriculum focuses on the following 4 Big Ideas:

1. Cells are derived from cells.
2. The electron arrangement of atoms impacts their chemical nature.
3. Electric current is the flow of electric charge.
4. The biosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere are interconnected, as matter cycles and energy flows through them.

In addition to the Big Ideas, there will be a strong focus on Indigenous content and ways of learning. In particular, our learning will be experiential, involving hands-on work directly with the land, soil, and plants around Templeton Secondary. Through these projects, students will learn valuable scientific skills, referred to as the Curricular Competencies:

* Questioning and predicting
* Planning and conducting
* Processing and analyzing data and information
* Evaluating
* Applying and innovating
* Communicating

For the last two weeks, students will complete an inquiry project related to a subject of interest to them.

Grades

Most assignments in this class will not be given numeric marks or grades. Instead, feedback will be given with comments. Periodically throughout the term, students will meet with the teacher to review their work and get feedback on what grade they can expect to receive on their report card.

Your grade in this course will be reported using the Student Competency Scale developed by the Vancouver School Board (<http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/ltm/csl_resources/Pages/Student-Competency-Scale.aspx>). It is a 4-level scale that evaluates students’ skills as beginning, developing, applying, or extending.

Before and after assignments and projects, we will discuss as a class what it means to be at each of the levels. You will be given opportunities to share your work, and see the work of your classmates, so you have a better idea of what level of work is expected to achieve each level on the Student Competency Scale.