



SEABRIGHT ACADEMY **SYLLABUS**

Miss Katrin Craig - Sixth Grade Math and Science
Scotts Valley Middle School, Room 14

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Class Website: <http://new.schoolnotes.com/craigscience>

Welcome to Miss Craig's Math and Science classes! This year, we will be exploring just how well Math and Science go together. In this syllabus, you will find all the information you need on expectations, grading policies, and what we will be learning about this year.

Behavior Expectations:

All students are expected to behave in a respectful, productive, and responsible manner. Safety is the biggest concern when doing labs in Science class. Below are some expectations and rules to help our class run smoothly and safely:

- 1) Respect everyone and everything. Use positive language with each other;
- 2) Be safe. Absolutely no leaning back in chairs; our tile floors are slippery and you will fall. Walk in the classroom; running is not allowed. Safety is our top priority;
- 3) No Gum anywhere at SVMS, and no eating in class;
- 4) Cell phones, I-Pods, etc. are to be turned OFF and stored in backpack (not on self);
- 5) Show up ready to learn with pen and pencils, binder, and required assignments;
- 6) Ask for help when you need it, whether it's from Miss Craig or a fellow student. Use your resources (Vocabulary Sheets, notes, handouts, assignments, etc.) to help you. You may not always know the answer right away, but you are expected to use your resources, ask for help, and make an effort to figure it out.

We all can help create a productive learning environment by following the rules listed above. We all have a right to learn and enjoy ourselves at school. Always tell an adult if you are having any problems at school.

Enrichment

Enrichment is 5th period and is full of possibilities. Every day students will need a silent reading book for Enrichment. Students will take quizzes on books read in Accelerated Reader (A.R.) and earn points for books read.

Students who need help in Math or English may go to workshops during Enrichment in a small-group setting to get help. Enrichment is also the time to see teachers for help, do test corrections, and take AR quizzes.

Enrichment has a Pass or Fail grade. To Pass Enrichment, students must meet at least 70% of their AR point goal, and use their Enrichment time productively every day.

AR Website

<https://hosted44.renlearn.com/283409>

Username: first initial of first name + first four letters of last name (example: James Smith is “jsmit”)

Password: abc

Go to “View Goals and Points” to monitor progress in AR. AR quizzes are only allowed during school hours between 8:00 - 3:00, and may not be taken at home.

Parent and Student Responsibilities

Grade monitoring is to be done on PowerSchool:

<https://ps.scottsvalleyusd.org/public/home.html>

Parents and students are expected to check their grades at least once every two weeks in PowerSchool. Usernames and passwords are available in the front office at SVMS, and I would be happy to give you a tutorial if it's your first time using PowerSchool. You can check grades 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Grades will also be posted by Student Number in class every week.

Parents and students should check Miss Craig's class website every Monday:

<http://new.schoolnotes.com/craigscience>

My Schoolnotes website posts the homework for both Science and Math every week, as well as quiz hints, upcoming reminders, class calendar, Flashcards for studying (which can be printed up), and several useful web links.

Seabright Academy Team Time

Every day between 8:00 - 9:45, Mrs. Broersma and Miss Craig are available to meet with parents should the need arise. Please e-mail us if you would like to set up a meeting with both of us.

Class Wish Lists

From time to time I will need supplies for Science labs. I will post these on my schoolnotes website. Thank you for anything that you can do! We are always in need of: lined and graph paper, paper towels, and Kleenex.

MATH SYLLABUS

Math Class Philosophy

Everyone learns at a different pace, and Math class is certainly not a race. In Math class, we will learn to respect our strengths and different paces, focusing on helping others when we understand it, and asking for help when we need it. We all have the capability to do Math, but we all learn it in slightly different ways. The focus is on “quality”, not “quantity”. I would rather a student do 5 problems well than 15 problems inaccurately.

Furthermore, you are encouraged to use the methods that work best for you. For example, you may remember how to add integers ($-5 + 2$) in a different way than another student does. What works for one student may not work well for you. Do what makes sense to you. There are many ways to solve Math problems, not just one.

Blended Learning: Using the Digital Classroom

We will be using Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org) this year to learn and practice Math. Khan Academy is a website that provides video tutorials and practice for Math students. As your “Coach”, I can monitor your progress in specific standards (like adding fractions). You are encouraged to practice at home, too! It’s kind of like a game.

Class Materials

Everyday students will need:

- 1) A Quad-Ruled Journal. This is a small-size bound journal with graph paper instead of lined paper. They’re available at all office-supply stores, including CVS. We’ll use the Journal daily for class warm-ups and notes.
- 2) Pencils and erasers. If possible, carry your own small, hand-held pencil sharpener.

Homework

Homework is an important part of reinforcing what we are learning in the classroom. It is essential that students practice Math regularly to remember what they learn. Math homework will be assigned Monday - Thursday nights, weekends excluded (you must enjoy your family time!). Students should work for **30 continuous minutes** on their homework. After 30 minutes of solid, uninterrupted effort (no texting, internet, or TV), a parent or guardian may “sign off” on the student’s homework. Simply write, “(Student’s Name) worked 30 minutes” and sign. Full credit will be given for students who follow the 30-minute rule and don’t complete all assigned problems. Students are encouraged to do evens and/or odds of problems to get a better sampling of problems. If you do odds or evens, you are likely to get a more well-rounded homework practice.

Homework is worth 5 points per assignment. If there is no parent sign-off, I will assess the percent of problems completed and grade accordingly (for example, if a student completes 6/10 problems, they will get a 3/5 on their homework). All work **MUST** be shown in order to receive full credit on homework. **No work = No credit.** That means if you just turn in a column of Final Answers, you will get a 0/5 for the assignment. Don’t cheat - it only cheats yourself. **No pen** is to be used on Math homework.

Late Work Policy

Late work is accepted up to 2 weeks past the original due date, but not after. Homework that is one-day late drops one full letter-grade. For example, you will get a 4.4/5 for a Math homework assignment turned in one day late (that’s an 89% B+). Homework turned in 2 days late or more will receive half-credit only (2.5/5), but it’s still better than no credit at all. Stay on top of your current assignments. If you are absent, you get however many days you were out extra time to complete the assignment.

Weekly Assessments

Almost every Friday, students will take a quiz or test for Math to monitor their progress. Assessments are an important part of student success. Test corrections are allowed for students who score a 79% or lower on a Weekly Quiz; by correcting their missed problems and showing proficiency, they can raise their grade to an 80% (B-). When a student scores a 69% or lower on a Unit Test, they can re-take that test up to 70% credit. Assessments are a crucial part of monitoring student progress.

Sixth Grade General Math Curriculum

This year, students will be building upon their foundation of Number Sense in preparation for Pre-Algebra. I call Sixth Grade Math “Life Math”, because this is the kind of Math people need to live. Whether it’s shopping for groceries, estimating the bill with tax and tip at a restaurant, doing your taxes, doubling a recipe for cookies, or figuring out what that “16/20” score on your spelling test is, we all need to know sixth grade Math. This is the foundation of Pre-Algebra, which most students take in the seventh grade, and Algebra 1, which most students take in the eighth grade.

We will cover all California Sixth Grade Standards including: Number Sense, Exponents, Prime-Factorization, Operations with Integers, Decimals, and Fractions, Ratios, Proportions, Rates, Percents, Percent of Change, One and Two-Step Equations, Geometry, Area, Volume, Circumference, Statistics, Data Analysis, and Probability.

Grading Policy

Grades are weighted for Math.

35% Homework

65% Quizzes and Tests

Textbook Website Homework Help

Students are encouraged to use the HOLT Math Textbook website for homework help: <http://www.thinkcentral.com/index.htm> Each textbook page has a code on the upper right corner; type that code in the box on the HOLT website and get help!

SCIENCE SYLLABUS

Science Class Philosophy

The Earth is a fascinating, interesting, exciting place to live and explore. There is so much more to be discovered! Curiosity, wonder, and observation are all part of being a good Scientist. In Science class, we will explore our planet Earth through hands-on lab activities, projects, games, and more. Science class is not a textbook-based class.

Science Class Curriculum

Sixth Grade Science is focused on Earth Science, although Life Science and Physical Science are interwoven as well. You don’t need a microscope or need to understand cell biology this year (that will be in Seventh Grade Life Science), nor do you need to know how to balance chemistry equations (Eighth Grade Physical Science). This year is all about the Science you see in your daily life around you, from the birds that nest in the tree in your yard, to the mica sparkles in your toothpaste (did you know your toothpaste is full of minerals?), to why we have mountains, coast, valleys, and deserts all within California. It’s also about what’s *under* you (did you know that Earth is constantly, slowly moving?). Earth Science is my favorite subject, and I hope you’ll love it too!

We will be covering these major units: The Scientific Method, Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes; Weathering, Erosion, and Topography; Rocks and Minerals; Ecology and Biomes; Oceanography; Energy and Natural Resources.

Homework and Classwork

Homework will be given once or twice a week, usually assigned on a Monday and due on a Friday. Homework will mostly be labs, worksheets, or long-term projects. The late work policy is the same as Math class (see above). Some simple worksheets that we go over in class will be checked for Classwork points, and must be kept for the entire unit.

Assessments

Students will take a Science quiz about once every week or two weeks, usually on a Wednesday or a Thursday. Students will always know about an upcoming quiz; there will be no “pop quizzes”. Unit Tests will be about once every six weeks, with review sheets passed out at least a week in advance.

Quiz and test re-takes are allowed when a student scores a 69% (D+) or lower. Students re-take the quiz in Enrichment and can raise the score to a 70% (C-) passing score.

Science Notebook

Students are expected to keep an organized Science Notebook. Students will need both a section in a 3-ring binder, and a Science Journal. The Science Journal will have daily warm-ups that are used on quizzes, and class notes, lab observations, and more. Most students use a small-size Composition Journal, and keep it inside their 3-ring binder. You must have your journal every day. Occasional Journal Checks may be performed throughout the school year, so keep everything organized.

Grading Policy

50% Homework, Classwork, and Labs

50% Quizzes and Tests

Please **keep the previous pages** for your reference.

Please sign, date, and return this page for your child’s first homework assignment. Please include your e-mail if possible.

I have read and understand the above Syllabi, including all rules, grading policies, and expectations:

Student Name (Printed)

Parent Signature

Date

Parent E-
Mail(s):
