**Mrs. Cassidy**

**ccassidy@rsd17.org**

**Room C121**

**Class Syllabus and Guidelines for College Prep Exploring Science 3201**

***The mission of Haddam-Killingworth High School is to provide a personalized and collective experience through which students are challenged to develop the knowledge, skills, and work ethic to contribute to a global society.***

**I. Course Description -** The specific content of Exploring Science draws upon the principles of several scientific specialties—earth science, physical science, biology, chemistry, and physics—and organizes the material around thematic units. Common themes covered include systems, models, energy, patterns, change, and constancy. Students will review and apply the scientific method to develop a broad understanding of science issues. They will use problem-solving skills to hypothesize outcome, record and interpret data, and come to meaningful conclusions. These courses will also build global awareness of the nature of science.

 **II. Course Concepts**

1. Scientific Method and Metrics
2. Chemical Structures and Properties
3. Energy Transformations
4. Global Interdependence

**III. Course Requirements**

1. All students must have the following supplies/materials below everyday in class for the entire year:
2. A notebook or composition book **and** a three ring binder.
3. Several writing implements, including pens, pencils, and a set of colored pencils.
4. Textbook and handouts
5. Agenda issued by HKHS

 B. Additional suggested Class Supplies/Materials:

 1. Computer with high-speed internet access and printer

 2. Microsoft Office Software

 3. Email account

 4. Flash drive and/or Google Docs account

**IV. Course Expectations**

1. **Attendance Policy**- in compliance with the HKHS Student Handbook.
2. **Notebook and three ringed-binder requirements**- You will be required to maintain a thorough notebook that details what you have learned in this class. Your notebook/binders should include vocabulary, notes, worksheets, reference sheets, etc. All graded assignments and any reference materials should also be filed into your binders. Keeping an organized notebook/binder is essential for your success in this class.
3. **Absences** – **It is your responsibility to make-up any class time you miss.** Please see the instructor and look online to find out what you have missed in class and for homework. Make-up work will not be done during regular class time. Absences will not delay any assessment except under special circumstances approved by your instructor. If you are absent on the day of an assessment, you will take the assessment (test, etc) on the next day you are present.
4. **Science Department Homework Policy**--Homework is defined as the time students spend outside the classroom in assigned learning activities. The Haddam-Killingworth High School Science Department believes that homework should be to practice, reinforce or apply acquired skills and knowledge. We also believe, as research supports, that assignments completed and well done are an effective part of the learning process. Homework should serve in the development of independent study skills and we believe that completing homework is the responsibility of the student.

It is the intention of the Haddam-Killingworth High School Science Department to assign relevant and meaningful homework assignments that reinforce classroom learning objectives. Homework should provide the opportunity for students to apply and reinforce information presented in class, complete unfinished class assignments and should build student responsibility, self-discipline and lifelong learning habits.

1. Assignments may be any of the following: Lab reports, projects, studying for quizzes or tests, vocabulary assignments, reading assignments, and note summarizations.
2. Frequency of Homework: Some form of homework will be assigned every night. It could take anywhere from 15-45 minutes depending on the assignment.

1. **Grades**-Your final course grade will consist of the following:

 Monitored Homework 0%

Homework/Daily Work 10%

 Labs and Projects 30%

 Tests and quizzes 60%

 Midterm Exam 10%

 Final Exam 10%

1. **Extra Help**- I am here to support you in doing your best to be successful. If you need extra help please see me before or after class to arrange a time to meet.
2. **Electronic Devices and Bring your Technology Policy (from HK Handbook)**

Cell phones and all other electronic devices (e.g. ipods) may not be used during class periods except when technology is explicitly used for instruction and learning under the direction of the teacher. The only acceptable place and time to use an electronic device such as a cell phone is during passing time and lunch- and only in the hallways and in the cafeteria. Student tardiness to class due to phone use is **not** acceptable, as is leaving class to use the phone in the hallway or lavatory. In addition, headphones (earbuds, etc..) shall not be used at all except in the cafeteria during lunch. This is to encourage appropriate social interactions between students in the hallways and avoid the safety hazard caused by students unable to hear instructions, announcements, etc…

Most importantly, students must acknowledge that these devices are to be used for educational purposes only and using them for social media, texting, or web browsing (that is not related to the class) is prohibited and violates the district’s acceptable use policy.

**Mrs. Cassidy’s Policy**: If electronic devices are being used inappropriately during class the…

 1st infraction- student will be given a warning

 2nd infraction- student will lose electronic device for class (placed in secure location by myself)

 3rd infraction- electronic device will be taken until end of day, parents will be called, and administrative action will be taken

**V. Instructors Expectations**

1. Do excellent work the first time. There are no extra credit opportunities to supplement poor grades or zeros. Students earn their grades they are not given.
2. Come to class prepared with all materials including homework. Being prepared for class is fundamental for success. Be in your assigned seat and ready to work when the bell rings.
3. **Late assignment policy** – if work is turned in late there will be points taken off for each day it is late with the exceptions of an absence or special permission by instructor. To assist you with this policy, please write down all assignments daily/weekly in your agenda.
4. If you feel you are falling behind or not understanding the material, please see me as soon as possible. **Be a proactive, self-advocate**.
5. **Respect Yourself, Respect Others, Respect your Environment, and Take Responsibility for your Actions and you are going to have a great year!**

**Please read this with your parent(s)/ guardian(s) then sign and return the attached sheet to me. This form and the guidelines should be kept in your science notebook and used as a reference. Any further questions, please contact me at 345-8541 extension 3121 or email at** **ccassidy@rsd17.org****.**

**Helpful Hint! Use PowerSchool to check your grades and assignments. Use my website for class resources. I will update the grades weekly and assignments daily!**

**HAVE A GREAT YEAR AND GOOD LUCK!**