

MELISSA LOPEZ

GENERAL SCIENCE
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GENERAL SCIENCE

General science is an introductory science class for 6th-8th grade students. This class is an overview of scientific material used throughout high school science classes. Students will explore biology, anatomy and physiology, ecology, the scientific method, and simple machines. Students will practice experimental exploration through hands-on labs to gain a deeper understanding of the material. This class will give students an excellent foundation for higher-level science classes.

CLASS CONDUCT

Students should treat fellow classmates with kindness and respect. When in class, students should stay on topic, be positive, and use appropriate language. If a student is unable to follow these guidelines, they may be removed from live class.



REQUIRED MATERIALS

Exploring Creation with General Science by Jay Wile, 3rd edition (ISBN: 9781946506276) and General Science Student Notebook (OPTIONAL)

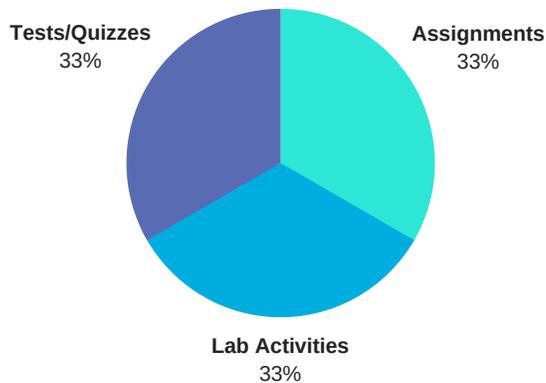
Lab Materials: A complete list of materials is found in the textbook. Lab kits are available for purchase online, or you can collect your own materials using the list.

LIVE CLASS



Class meets weekly for 90 minutes on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm ET. Class is 30 weeks long. All classes are recorded. If a student does miss class, it is important to watch the class recording as soon as possible. It is important that students attend and participate in live class. Students should save slides, take notes, ask questions, and participate in class discussions. The more actively that a student engages in class, the better he or she will understand the material.

GRADING



Students will be graded on weekly assignments, lab reports and activities, and quizzes/tests. The lowest grade in each category may be dropped at the end of each semester.

A (100-90%) B (89 - 80%) C (79 - 70%)
D (69 - 60%) F (59% and below)

LATE WORK



Students should be aware of deadlines and due dates. Every effort should be made to submit assignments on time.

Extensions for late work are rare and should be discussed with the instructor prior to missing a deadline if possible.

Assignments turned in after the due date will receive a 10 point deduction for each day they are late. Work submitted more than 10 days late will not be accepted except in extreme situations and with approval from Mrs. Lopez.

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?

"Mrs. Lopez seems to enjoy helping students understand difficult concepts."

"She was always smiling, patient, and interested in her students success."

ALL ABOUT ME

Mrs. Lopez went to college at Baylor University, and she holds a Bachelor's degree in biology. Mrs. Lopez worked in a medical research lab after college, and she brings practical applications for science concepts alive for students. She taught in public schools for 9 years and has been teaching at local home school co-op for five years. Mrs. Lopez has taught biology, algebra 1 and 2, geometry, independent math studies, pre-calculus, study skills, and personal finance. Mrs. Lopez has been married to her husband for 17 years, and they have three sons. In her spare time, she enjoys playing sports with her sons.

SUBMITTING WORK

Assignments are due by Tuesday night at 11:59 pm ET. Work should be submitted to the Drop Box in the class page. Files should be submitted as either a pdf or document files. Work submitted in an incorrect file format will be returned with a grade of 0 until the correct file type is submitted.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND DISHONESTY

An important lesson for students is that no grade is more valuable than their integrity.

Academic dishonesty such as copying other students' work, taking credit for information from other sources, or receiving outside help when not allowed will not be tolerated. When in doubt, students should ask Mrs. Lopez about the specific situation. Plan ahead, be informed, and seek help to avoid situations of academic dishonesty.

Tentative Schedule

Fall Semester:

Week 1: Lab Reports

Week 2: Lab Report Sections

Week 3: What is Science, The Scientific Method

Week 4: Experiments: Variables/controls; Interpreting Data

Week 5: Types of Graphs

Week 6: Types of Science, Historical Records

Week 7: Finish Historical Records and Age Tests

Week 8: Test 1

Week 9: Astronomy - Sun and the Planets

Week 10: The Moon and Space

Week 11: Earth, Weathering, and Erosion

Week 12: Geology and the Fossil Record

Week 13: Weather

Week 14: Test 2

Week 15: Matter, Elements, and the Periodic Table

Spring Semester:

Week 16: Mixtures and Types of Bonds

Week 17: Physical/Chemical Changes; Acids/Bases

Week 18: Newton's Laws

Week 19: Forces and Simple Machines

Week 20: Waves, Sound, and Light

Week 21: DNA

Week 22: Characteristics of Life

Week 23: Test 3

Week 24: Cells and Organelles

Week 25: Bacteria and Virus

Week 26: Plant Biology and Human Biology

Week 27: Marine Science

Week 28: Food Webs

Week 29: Symbiosis and Ecosystems

Week 30: Test 4

