

GILMAN PIRATES ROCK!

Middle School SCIENCE

with Mrs. Steinbach 2026-2027



#1 - SCIENTIFIC THINKING/PRACTICE. Develop scientific and inquiry skills for our classroom and life (e.g., question, test ideas, analyze data, design solutions, solve problems, communicate findings and evidence-based arguments), as well as build foundational science knowledge through a hands-on, active, inquiry-based learning style.

#2 - PROFESSIONALISM PRACTICE. Treat our classroom like a professional lab by being punctual, attentive to detail, flexible, organized, as well as managing time, taking initiative, and developing a strong work ethic.

EMAIL



Contact me via email at tsteinbach@gilman.k12.wi.us with any questions or concerns about science class or academic progress.

SUPPLIES



All students are required to have:

- ☐ two composition, college-ruled notebooks
- ☐ pencils

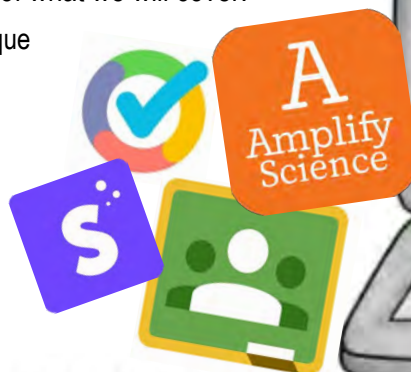
Note: Classroom sets of colored pencils, markers, scissors, and glue will be provided. Some TI-30Xa calculators will be available as well.



WHAT WILL WE BE LEARNING?

I hope that you find a way to follow your curiosities and discover some amazing nooks of science for yourself! Here is a list of some of what we will cover:

- Laboratory Safety, Equipment, and Technique
- Scientific Inquiry and Experimental Design
- Scientific Writing and Argumentation
- Plate Motion
- Rock Transformations
- Phase Change
- Chemical Reactions
- Populations and Resources
- Matter and Energy in Ecosystems

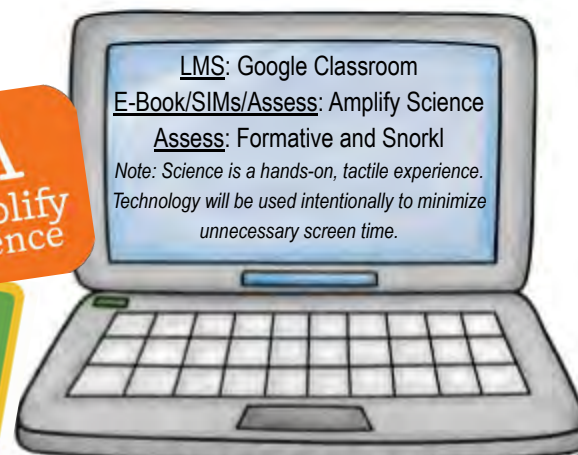


PIRATE SCI



The class website, www.PirateSci.com, will be of use to you throughout the school year. There will be a weekly calendar of what we are doing in class each day on the [Assignment Board](#) webpage.

MAJOR E-TOOLS



LEARNING



**PROPER
PREPARATION
PREVENTS
POOR
PERFORMANCE!**

In our classroom, I am asking that you firmly understand that **learning takes time, happens at different speeds**, and **may feel overwhelming** at times. Because of this, we need to work together and honor the struggles and celebrations along the way by protecting how your daily performance is graded.

The **ULTIMATE GOAL** in our classroom is to gain true **MASTERY** of **SCIENTIFIC understanding/skills VIA an ACTIVE, HANDS-ON, INQUIRY LEARNING style**. Doing so will not only prepare you for future learning, but more importantly invite more opportunities later in life. Therefore, **TWO CLASSROOM LEARNING STRATEGIES**, both strongly backed by education research and cognitive science, are necessary to ensure mastery, with your solid effort of course.

#1 - FORMATIVES (i.e., critical checks for understanding during the learning)

Formative assessments, in the form of check-ins, drafts, investigate checks, etc., will be worth 0% of your grade, but when completed with 100% accuracy will guarantee passing the associated summative test. This ensures that practice is a completely safe space to make mistakes, ask questions, and learn without damaging your GPA.

Once all investigates and critical formative assessments have been completed, you may take your post-learning assessment, also known as a summative assessment. If you choose not to complete all critical formative assessments:

- Your exam will be labeled as missing.
- While your peers are taking the summative assessment, you will finish your missing formatives and a mandatory detention may be assigned.
- You will have one week from the original test date to complete the assessment.

#2 - REDOS (i.e., summative test retakes, lab practical retakes, and project revisions)

You are always allowed to retake a major assessment for full credit. When you are an adult, you will not be allowed to do subpar work at your job. You will need to get it right, even if you have to redo the work. Here are the redo rules:

- Unlock a redo after attending a 15-minute minimum tutoring session during FLEX and/or demonstrate revisiting/retaking formative assessments.
- Redos are worth full credit. You will not be punished for taking longer to learn.
- The redo must be completed within two weeks of the original assessment date or the next unit's assessment, whichever comes first.



Try as Hard as You Can to Be in Class Every Day!

Please check the [Assignment Board on our Pirate Sci website](#) to see what you missed! It's your responsibility to get caught up as soon as possible. Any papers can be found in the catch-up bin. Feel free to visit with a classmate or me for help.

GRADING



Your grade is not a permanent label—it is simply a snapshot of your performance on a specific day after a learning phase. Immersing yourself in the learning process will best prepare you for a great performance on final assessments.

Your **grade** will be determined by **scientific understanding/skills, post-learning checks** (i.e., summative assessments). Tests will be evaluated differently than alternative assessments when determining your proficiency of understanding. Your proficiency level will then be converted to a percentage equivalent/point value for Infinite Campus calculation purposes.

3-TIERED TEST ASSESSMENT (i.e., a three-part test where students complete all parts, starting with Level 1 to build confidence as proceed)

<u>Test Levels</u>	<u>Level Meaning</u>	<u>Proficiency Shown</u>	<u>Gradebook Entry</u>
3	demonstrates critical/strategic thinking	Levels 1, 2, & 3	A
2	applies understanding	Levels 1 & 2	B
1	recalls foundational understanding	Level 1	C

NOTE: D/F gradebook entries result when level 1 proficiency is not demonstrated or not attempted.

**IT'S
"GAME"
TIME!**

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS (e.g., projects, lab practicals, scientific arguments, scientific notebook data/reflection recordings, etc.)

<u>Rubric Proficiency Score</u>	<u>Understanding Level</u>	<u>Gradebook Entry</u>
4 (3.51-4.00)	exceeds	100 = A
3 (2.51-3.50)	meets	90 (90-99) = A
2 (1.51-2.50)	approaching	80 (80-89) = B
1 (0.51-1.50)	developing	65 (60-79) = C/D
0 (0.50 and below)	non-attempt	F

What Does
Your Quarter
Grade Mean?

Advanced	Proficient	Approaching Proficiency	Developing Proficiency	Insufficient Evidence
A means you have advanced understanding of the science content/skill	B means you are proficient in your understanding of the science content/skill	C means you are still developing your understanding of the science content/skill	D means you are beginning to have understanding of the science content/skill	F means there is insufficient evidence at this time (i.e., missing assignments to demonstrate understanding)
93-100..... A 90-92..... A-	87-89..... B+ 83-86..... B 80-82..... B-	77-79..... C+ 73-76..... C 70-72..... C-	67-69..... D+ 63-66..... D 60-62..... D-	0-59..... F



Try as Hard as You Can to Be Punctual!

It's your responsibility to complete all assessments on time. Being punctual makes the learning process less stressful. Your inability to complete an assessment on time may result in a mandatory detention. Due date extensions may be given upon request.

RULES AND CONSEQUENCES



Our class will be conducted under the discipline code published in the Gilman Student Handbook. In addition, there will be particular emphasis on the following:

1. **TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR LEARNING...** Have pride in yourself and your science studies. Be curious and ask questions. Dig in, stay focused, and contribute your thoughts and skills. Hard work today will help you to have the future life you are dreaming of.
2. **BE PRESENT AND PREPARED...** Don't miss a day to learn something new and become a better person. Be present for scheduled class periods and participate fully from start to finish. Be prepared by doing the work necessary to achieve the learning (e.g., scientific notebook recordings, practice solidifying understandings, etc.). Don't let your people, devices, etc. distract you. Presence and preparedness are essential to maximize your learning experience.
3. **BE SAFE IN THE LAB...** Your safety and the safety of your classmates and I is important. You will be required to sign and abide by a student safety contract, as well as always follow class lab/activity directions in order to participate fully. If you fail to do so, you will not be allowed to participate in laboratory activities, and you will not have an opportunity for a make-up.
4. **TAKE CARE OF OUR CLASSROOMS...** Help me to keep our resources, supplies, and lab materials in great condition. I love our classrooms and I hope you do too. Keep your tables and lab stations clean and free of doodles. (If you can't resist the urge, doodle in your notebook.) If something is broken, report it to me right away. If the lighting or room temperature is not quite right, let me know and I will do my best to get it fixed. We will work best in a nice, neat, and clean classroom.

Consequences for poor decisions:

- ★ First Offense... Warning (unless your behavior is chronic or you are jeopardizing safety)
- ★ Second Offense... School Detention (and a call home depending on the offense)
- ★ Third Offense... Consequences determined by the Principal

PROFESSIONALISM POLICY

CONDUCT YOURSELF PROFESSIONALLY WITH KINDNESS AND INTEGRITY... **Because learning is currently your number one job, professional appearance and conduct matters.** Be a team player. Share your ideas and talents with your classmates, but do so with kindness and integrity. Academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating and plagiarism) in any portion of your academic work is a serious offense. More importantly, academic dishonesty will hurt you in your attempt at future coursework that relies on the learning.

A NOTE FROM MRS. STEINBACH



I expect you to improve and exercise your *good character*. Students with *good character* exhibit appropriate behavior, come to class prepared with a positive attitude, are pleasant towards their classmates and teachers, and do their best work at all times.

**I believe in you and
your ability to be successful!**