

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For Mr. Hanna's Class

8th GRADE COMPREHENSIVE SCIENCE 3 ADVANCED

(1st PERIOD)

WILL I HAVE TO TAKE THE FSSA (Florida Science Standards Assessment)?

- YES. All 8th graders not enrolled in biology will take the FSSA in the Spring semester of their 8th grade year.

WILL I HAVE A SEMESTER EXAM?

- YES. You will take a comprehensive exam for this course each semester that will impact your 2nd and 4th 9-weeks grade as a formal assessment grade (part of the 70%).

DO I HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCIENCE FAIR?

- YES, sort of. As an advanced science student, you are required to complete a science research project. If you wish to work together with a partner, you will need to complete a parent permission form stating your intention to share the work and responsibilities. However, you will have the choice of participating in the science fair (*completing a display and going through the judging process*) or writing a research paper to present your research to your teacher. Requirements for each option will be discussed in class during the first semester. On the due date, science fair projects will be submitted for grading in the "class science fair" while research papers will be graded and returned. A small number of projects will be selected to move on to the school science fair, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 5. Projects selected at the school fair will move on to the regional science fair to be held in the spring.

DO I NEED TO KEEP A SCIENCE NOTEBOOK?

- YES, in some form or another. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND a 1-inch 3-ring binder with tabs to organize your science assignments. Each unit will be a separate tab in the notebook, and each assignment will be numbered in that tab (for example: A1, A2, A3,...B1, B2, B3...).

You will NOT turn your assignments in to Mr. Hanna for grading. The class will discuss each assignment upon completion (this is the time to ask questions if you didn't understand or to make corrections if your original answer is not satisfactory) and it will be placed in your notebook. This way, you will ALWAYS have access to your notes and assignments for study purposes. Grading occurs during "notebook check windows" (usually a 2-3 day period) at the conclusion of each content unit. Mr. Hanna will call students back individually to review notebook assignments and enter grades.

You will be required to have your science notebook during class every day, but you have the option to keep it in class or take it home with you whenever you wish. If you choose to keep your notebook in class, it should be placed upright on the correct shelf (by period) of the bookshelf at the back of the room by Mr. Hanna's desk. It is helpful if you plan to leave your notebook in class to have some easily identifiable mark on the binding (name, design, etc...). Keep in mind, however, if your notebook is sitting on the bookshelf, it cannot help you study at home!

HOW WILL I BE GRADED?

- You will be graded on a percentage scale which is weighted as follows:
 - o 70% – Formal Assessments (Tests, Quizzes)
 - o 15% – Investigations (Lab Reports, Arguments, Investigation Planning & Data Collection)
 - o 15% – Classwork (Daily Assignments, Bellwork, Standard-Checks, Group Projects)
- During notebook checks, classwork and investigations will be graded as follows:
 - o Completed assignments will be given full credit
 - o Partial credit will be awarded for incomplete assignments
 - o Assignments that have not been attempted will be given a "0"
 - o Missing assignments will be marked in the gradebook as "z" (will count as a zero)
 - o Late assignments will be graded and a comment of "Late" will be entered

DO I GET CREDIT FOR LATE WORK?

- Partial Credit. Major projects and lab reports will have POINTS DEDUCTED each day they are late up to 5 days, after which they will be given a grade of "0". Notebook assignments are due during the designated notebook check window and are only worth half-credit after the notebook check window closes.

CAN I RETAKE A TEST OR REDO AN ASSIGNMENT IF I PERFORM POORLY?

- YES. Students will have an opportunity to re-take any formal assessment (*excluding the semester exam*) if they are not satisfied with their initial grade. Students may ask for a re-test within two weeks ONLY AFTER additional studying. Students will receive one "freebie" each nine weeks in which their retake grade can replace the original assessment grade for any point value. However, all other retake attempts will be capped at 70% (*or the next-highest letter-grade, ie – 80% or 90%*).
Students will have an opportunity to revise the final draft of their lab reports and resubmit their paper for grading after receiving teacher feedback. The higher of the two grades will be reflected in the gradebook for the lab report assignment.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO IF I MISS CLASS?

- First, you'll need to find out what assignments you missed. You can do this by checking the calendar on Mr. Hanna's website, checking the planner board at the back of the classroom when you return, or by asking a classmate.
If something was due while you were out, or if you missed a test, it is your responsibility to make up that grade upon returning to school.
- Second, you may need to locate paper copies for the assignment. You can do this by checking the make-up work folders at the back of the classroom under the American flag, or by checking the notebook assignments tab on Mr. Hanna's website.
- Third, you will need to complete the missed assignments. Be sure to reference any instructional materials linked on Mr. Hanna's website and ask questions if you don't understand. Remember, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR LEARNING THE MISSED CONTENT!

WHAT MATERIALS WILL I NEED FOR SCIENCE CLASS?

- Science Notebook (with all science assignments)
- Writing Utensil
- Paper (loose-leaf notebook paper)
- Student Planner
- Suggested Items: Calculator, Smart Phone/Tablet (alternatives will be provided in class on days when these items are used)

HOW CAN I ACCESS MR. HANNA'S WEBSITE? HOW CAN I USE IT TO HELP ME?

- Mr. Hanna's website can be found at <http://www.inetteacher.com/teacher/102753>. It can also be accessed through the SCMS homepage ("departments" → "science" → click on my picture) or through www.inetteacher.com by searching "Hanna".
- Mr. Hanna's website has a calendar of assignments/homework, a list of notebook assignments with links, and links to information such as science fair, lab reports, science standards, and more.

WHAT ARE MR. HANNA'S DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES?

- Mr. Hanna's rules are simple; we will be RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, and SAFE. Students will be given a chance to correct problem behaviors through verbal instruction. Serious or repeated rule offenses will result in the student signing the class discipline log. Consequences will be applied as follows:
 - o 1st infraction = official warning (*writing in the log*)
 - o 2nd infraction = parent phone call
 - o 3rd infraction = parent phone call, lunch detention
 - o Subsequent infractions = parent phone call, office referral

Note: In some cases, serious offenses may result in immediate behavior referrals to the Dean of Students.

HOW CAN I CONTACT MR. HANNA?

- Email is the best way to communicate with Mr. Hanna. His email address is hannar2@leonschools.net. Be sure to include the "2", otherwise your message will go to Rocky Hanna instead of Robert Hanna! Please allow 24 hours for a response (longer for weekends).

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I NEED EXTRA HELP OR SUPPORT IN SCIENCE?

- All ESE/504/ESOL student accommodations will be provided within the classroom.
- Students who wish to receive extra help may **schedule a time** to come in before or after school. Please note that teacher availability is affected by: Wednesday morning faculty/committee meetings, Tuesday morning duty, morning parent/teacher conferences, after-school department meetings, etc... Remember that email is an option (*please allow 24 hr response-time*).

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