

# Pojoaque Valley Middle School

Pojoaque Valley Schools

1574 State Road 502

Santa Fe, NM 87506

455-2238

Vera Trujillo

Principal

455-2239

Priscilla Cordova

Administrative Secretary

455-2238

Connie Garcia

Secretary

455-2238

Mabel Gonzales-Specht

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor

455-2238 Ex. 1604

Robert Garcia

8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Counselor/Social Worker

455-2238 Ex. 1605

Aric Wheeler

Discipline Officer

819-2312



*Kindness Rules !!*

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

## Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science!

My name is Ms. Ulibarri, I will be your child's 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science teacher, and I am looking forward to having your child in my class this year. I currently hold a Level I Professional 7-12 Secondary License with an endorsement in Science, and am pursuing a bilingual endorsement. My education background is in Biology and I have 8 years of higher education experience with Northern New Mexico College. However, this is my second year teaching Science at Pojoaque Valley Middle School and I am very excited to be returning to this school district.

This year the focus of the Pojoaque Valley School District is to improve student achievement and school culture. Both of these goals align to the expectations that I have for the students in my classroom and I appreciate any support you can give to your child or myself to accomplish these standards this year.

Teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade science includes not only teaching content, but also, respect, responsibility, organization, collaboration, communication, and other 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills such as character and responsibility. I expect students to come to class prepared, on time, and ready to learn. All work needs to be turned in on time. No late work will be accepted. I adhere to strict guidelines and I have high expectations for all of my students, this allows me to prepare them for their academic future in high school. In science they will strive to be efficient and autonomous.

This year we will be covering the following topics in Science. In my class we will also tie in ELA standards to include the ability to follow a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, and performing technical tasks. We will also focus on using the Math standards to include scientific notation, calculating percent error in labs, and PEMDAS.

- August – October: Cornell Way Note-taking technique + Peer Review, Scientific Processes, and Forces and Motion
- November: Foundations of Chemistry
- December: Elements, Chemical Bonds, and Chemical Reactions
- January: Finish Chemistry, Earth and Space Science
- February: Energy and Energy Resources
- March: Electricity and Circuit Design
- April – May: Magnetism, Light and Sound Waves

\*Schedule and Progression of Chapters may change at teacher's discretion.

Each grade recorded into the teacher's grade book will be recorded on a point scale. Grades will be comprised of classwork, homework, labs, projects, quizzes, and tests.

My classroom discipline plan entails structured procedures that the students are expected to follow to promote an optimal, as well as, safe learning environment. Any discipline issues that arise will be handled according to the procedures outlined in the student handbook (pages 53-57).

### **Classroom Procedures:**

1. Students enter class through the South Entrance. As you come into class, check the board for Do Now Problems (time limit 5 minutes). Write the question and the answer on the same sheet of paper in the notebook. Answers must follow the RACE (restate, answer, cite and explain) strategy for consideration. Failure to use RACE will result in a zero.
2. Students should keep track of their assignments in a safe place.
3. All written assignments should be in pencil unless they are assignments that can be printed from a computer. Lab reports are writing your notebook in pencil.
4. All assignments should be turned in on the due date, no late work will be accepted. Circumstances beyond your control must be communicated to me before so other arrangements can be made. Notebooks are always due on Friday of each week.
5. Upon returning from an absence, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain make up assignments from the assignment binder kept in the classroom. Make up work due to excused absences will only be accepted within the number of day the student was out.
6. Missed LABS must be made up within 3 days from your absence. Homework club will be a viable option as well. Teacher will provide an alternative assignment for labs that cannot be left set up.
7. Grades are based on a total point system. Please do all of your work.
8. End of Course exams will be used as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade standardized test this year. It will not be calculated into the student's grade. Failing two or more core classes will result in summer school for the student.

Students who are issued a textbook will be responsible for covering up their book. Should the book not be returned at the end of the year, an \$85 replacement fee. Any damage to classroom or school items will also result in restitution to be paid to the school to fix damages or replace items to include, glassware and all lab materials. This applies to all students, including those receiving free/reduced meals.

In closing, I would like to invite each of you to stop in and visit a class when you have a chance, you are always welcome. Please make sure to sign in at the front office before coming down. My room is 335, my email is [cru@pvs.k12.nm.us](mailto:cru@pvs.k12.nm.us), and my work phone number is 455-2238. I look forward to this school year and all that it has to offer!

Sincerely,

Camille R. Ulibarri