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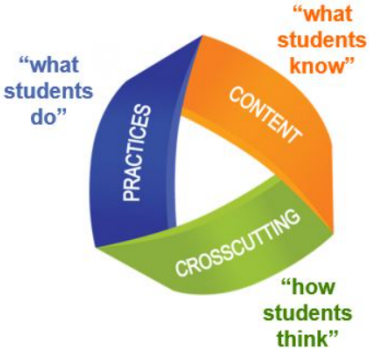
HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE
DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION FOR ALL COURSES TAUGHT BY MR. POWNER

Welcome: We are excited to be your science instructors this year. My name is Mr. Powner and my co-teacher/paraeducator's name is Elaine Pectol. I have taught all branches of science and several math courses at the high school level since 1999. I have also worked as a laboratory scientist. As educators, nothing gives us greater pleasure than the "Aha!" moment; that glorious instant when students' eyes widen and satisfied smiles spread across faces as their minds expand into new areas of understanding.

Importance of Science Literacy as Preparation for Adult Life: Developing basic scientific literacy is critical to functioning as adults in today's world. Science education helps prepare students to handle life's challenges; such as dealing with safety issues, solving problems effectively, making informed choices, living with rapidly evolving technology, preserving human health, protecting our environmental resources, and pursuing our insatiable curiosities with regards to nature and life. The applications of science education touch every aspect of our lives. This is true whether one is obtaining healthcare, flipping hamburgers for hire, dealing with personal challenges, raising children, voting in elections, engaging in hobbies, working as highly trained professionals, etc., etc.

Nature of Science Education: Scientific literacy requires basic competency with all academic, social, and physical skills learned in school. Science students must develop in the following areas: languages, reading, writing, mathematics, history, the arts, geography, politics, law, economics, cultural studies, social skills, fine and gross motor skills, problem solving, technology, general philosophy, and more. Students will combine these skills and bring them to bear as they learn methods and theories of science in our classroom. There are three dimensions of scientific literacy (3D's of Science). You'll hear me refer to them often. These 3D's include: disciplinary core ideas (DCIs), science and engineering practices (SEPs), and cross cutting concepts (CCCs).



My Personal Philosophy of Education: I believe that course credit represents accountability for (1) attendance/communication, (2) effort, (3) civil behavior, and (4) competency with course-related knowledge and skills. I have strong compassion and often tend toward mercy for students that are giving their best effort. I believe that science course experiences for our high school students should follow this pattern: easy to demonstrate competency, but difficult to demonstrate mastery. In general, my courses are easy to pass, but challenging to an A student.

Mr. Powner's Personal Website & Appointment Calendar http://mr.powner.org

Single-Sign-On Systems at SAHS http://bit.ly/spectrumlinks … this is the same welcome screen students see when logging into their technology at school, with the same username and password they use daily.

Class Rules: The following will be modeled and expected in class: **Respect**, **Responsibility**, and **Civility**.

Science Course Catalog: Descriptions and prerequisites of all courses offered at Spectrum Academy HS-NSL can be found at https://mr.powner.org/catalog_24-25.pdf

Laboratory Safety: Students will be using standard high school laboratory instruments and chemicals. Safety training will be provided and care must be exercised in order to prevent accidental injury. Before being permitted to participate in experiments, students will be required to (1) pass a lab safety quiz with an 80% or better and (2) turn in a signed course contract. If a student violates safety principles the following may occur at the instructor's discretion: warnings, temporary ejection from the laboratory, repetition of safety training and quiz required for further participation, and grades may be lowered. If a student repeatedly demonstrates unsafe behavior in the laboratory, instructors may choose to exclude offenders from further participation, in which case alternative activities and locations will be provided during laboratory experiments.

Grades: All learning activities and assessments will be scored with a 4-point competency scale (based on state standards). These points will contribute to term grades that will be recorded in the traditional letter and gpa scales. Feel free to review the "student-friendly" rubrics I will use to measure competency at https://mr.powner.org/competency_24-25.pdf

Supplies: Students will need to bring the following daily: spiral bound notebook (with perforated pages) to be used only for this course and pens or pencils. All other personal items must either be approved by the instructor or specifically permitted by the student's IEP. We always appreciate donations: tissues, pens and/or pencils, spiral bound notebooks, hand sanitizer, dry-erase markers/erasers/cleaning fluid, gift cards to buy supplies, etc.

Assignments/Homework: There will be assignments and activities each week. Students should not expect to be able to finish all assignments during class. Types of assignments and assessments will include: reading, vocabulary, written reports and essays, hands-on labs, individual and group projects, presentations, quizzes, tests, etc. It is the student's responsibility to obtain the notes, homework assignments, and any other pertinent information that is missed due to an absence.

Honors: If approved, honors science students are required to demonstrate learning that is above and beyond what the typical student would do in a regular course. To maintain "Honors" status, these students are required to (1) submit one independent learning project per term, (2) maintain at least a "B" average, and (3) participate in peer tutoring.

School Policies: These will be generally enforced with some modifications specific to the science laboratory (e.g., personal electronics, attendance, citizenship, late work, credit recovery, etc.). The collected school policies and procedures can be found at https://www.spectrumcharter.org/policies-manuals

Phones and Personal Electronics: New Utah legislation and local school policies have changed regarding this topic. All personal electronics, including cell phones, must be placed in a secure location designated by the instructor within the laboratory during scheduled classes. Students may request the use of phones and devices, but must go to a supervised location chosen by the school administrator to prevent disruption to the learning of others.

Classroom Video Recordings: Many classroom activities are video recorded for professional development and for students that are absent during the activities. Please sign the media release portion of the course contract or your student may be required to choose an alternate location and assignment for certain activities.

IEP Accommodations: These are gladly offered. Students are encouraged to self-advocate with the instructor.

More Information: Feel free to contact me with questions or concerns. My email address is at the top of the first page. I look forward to working with you this year. Sincerely, Mr. Powner.