

Course Description:

Welcome to Specialized Science 12. This is a science class that explores big ideas and concepts in science that have an effect on the world around you. We will be researching current topics of science and interacting with each other in discussion and projects to help us understand these effects in more depth.

Here are the **BIG IDEAS** we have the opportunity to explore

Biodiversity is dependent on the complex interactions and processes between biotic and abiotic factors. (adapted from Environmental Science 11)	Climate change impacts biodiversity and ecosystem health. (adapted from Environmental Science 12)	All members of a species have common characteristics that evolve over time. (adapted from Life Sciences 11)	Our evolving understanding of genetics has implications for health, society, and environment. (adapted from Anatomy and Physiology 12)	Chemical reactions are due to energy changes that result from the breaking and re-formation of bonds. (adapted from Chemistry 11)
Changes in equilibrium drive chemical processes. (adapted from Chemistry 12)	Energy is always conserved. (adapted from Physics 11)	Forces interact within fields and cause linear and circular motions. (adapted from Physics 12)	Geologic materials can change as they cycle through the geosphere and can be used as resources. (adapted from Earth Sciences 11)	Rock layers and the fossil record reflect geologic changes through time. (adapted from Geology 12)

The Process:

- As a class, we are going to pick (3) of the Big Ideas above from (2) different subjects.
- We will gather vocabulary that is important to learn about each topic
- We will produce projects or submit assignments to assess what you have learned

Grading:

Vocabulary: **10%** Participation and Quality of **In-Class Assignments/Work = 90%**
How Hard You Work and Participate Is Graded Every Single Day

Everyone starts off with zero marks towards earning a passing grade in this class. Because there is no homework or exams, the amount of effort you put in every day is how you can earn marks toward a passing grade. Your efforts are recorded by me each day so if I see you wasting time and not putting in effort towards the day's expressed goals, you will earn less marks than someone else that is working hard to complete the project. So just showing up is not enough to pass this class.

Classroom demeanor:

Not being respectful towards others eliminates a certain number of your Participation Marks

Attendance:

Unfortunately, if you are not attending class, it is difficult to earn participation marks. Some of the assessments are “team-based” so you can put your team in jeopardy if you don’t show up on the day of the assessment. Of course, you will always know the dates of the assessments well in advance so you can alter your schedule around them.

Late Policy

*If you arrive to class after the bell you are late. If you are late, you have to serve a 15 minute detention that day starting at 2:45pm. If you don't show, you will serve a 30 minute detention the next day. Referrals and Vice Principal/parent meetings will follow.

Washroom Policy

I have a “digital hallpass” where you log out on the tablet (starting the time clock) to go to the washroom or to get a drink of water. The only washrooms or drinking fountains you can go to are in the stairwell that are less than 35 steps from my door. When you return to class you log back into the tablet which stops the time clock.