

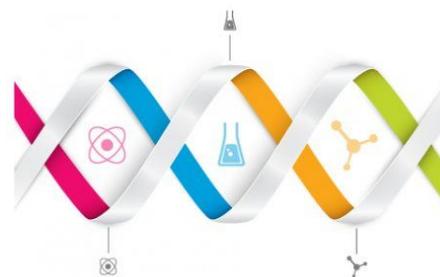
# Mr. Maher's 8th Grade Science Show

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2019-20

## Curriculum Overview

This year we will be following a ***brand new*** curriculum brought to you by **FOSS**. Oakland Unified School District is leading the way for California and the nation in fully incorporating the Next Generation Science Standards. These standards focus on hands on investigations for experience based instruction, engineering practices for problem solving, and cross cutting concepts in all areas of science and core skills. The topics we will cover this year include in order:

1. Hereditary and Adaptation (Biology)
2. Electromagnetic Forces (Physics)
3. Gravity and Kinetic Energy (Physics)
4. Waves (Physics)
5. Planetary Science (Astronomy)
6. OUSD Science Fair



## Grading and Expectations

Grading will be conducted on various items including traditional assessments, laboratory work, class work, and homework. Homework and classwork will be evaluated by completion rate. Assessments will be graded through a percentage, and these assessments will include quizzes, unit tests, and occasional projects. Students will be allowed to bring their notes home to study before any assessment. Lab work and projects will be graded on a rubric based on given standards. Therefore, these will vary from assignment to assignment. The break down for final grades are listed below.

Total Grade Breakdown	
Assignments	Percentage
Homework	10%
Classwork	30%
Assessments (quizzes, tests, projects)	30%
Lab Work	30%

Grades will be updated weekly on Aeries, and I am open to meet anytime with proper scheduling through email (see above). I will not be able to meet before, during, or after school without an appointment.

### **Class expectations and behavior**

As a school wide philosophy we will be practicing the CMS model for classroom behavior. This includes being compassionate, mindful, and safe. Accordingly, I will be using an incentive policy in the classroom to reward and celebrate those students who meet those expectations. Students will keep track of their "points," which they can redeem for prizes using their ***Classdojo*** accounts. Please set up the account with your child to have access to daily behavior reports, regular direct communication to myself, and other added perks. Those who do not meet expectations will have opportunities to correct their behavior through the Consequence Ladder created by the 8th grade team.

### **Procedures**

All procedures will be explained and practiced in the opening weeks, but here are a few of the common items that you will benefit from knowing and practicing regularly.

- Homework: I will be trying to assign, at most, one homework assignment a week. This assignment will be given at the beginning of the week, and it will be due at the end of the week. Accordingly, all in class work should be completed in class. If any work is not finished in class it is expected that work will be finished at home and returned the next day.
- Food and Drink: Due to the fact that the classroom will have regular labs, no food will be permitted in class. Water is acceptable when in a sealable bottle, but will not be allowed when computers or lab equipment are present.
- Make up work: If a student misses a class for any reason they are expected to complete all missing assignments. I will be available during lunch and after school to assist in this process.
- Extra Credit: ***Any extra work is rewarded with extra credit.*** All quizzes and tests can receive half of the points missed back through test corrections. Depending on the difficulty of an extra credit assignment will determine the value of the extra credit awarded. Accordingly, you **MUST** meet with the teacher for approval before beginning any extra credit assignments. No extra assignments will be allowed the week before a marking period ends, and there will be no extra credit available for lab grades as they must be completed with a team in a controlled environment.

- Needed for arrival: Students should come prepared to learn with a pencil and a positive attitude everyday. Students must arrive to class, be seated, and completing the “Do Now,” activity **before** the starting bell in order to receive credit for being fully present. Tardies will result in schoolwide tardy detentions and may prevent a student from school wide incentives and activities.

## Meet the Teacher

My name is Seth Maher. This is my fourth year teaching at Claremont, but I am not new to teaching. This will be my eighth year teaching in a public school setting. I have previously taught in the Washington DC area, and I received my formal educational training in New York. I have a Bachelors and a Masters degree in education with a concentration in science curriculum and instruction. I am a member of the National Science Teachers Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. I try to be as available and as flexible as possible to my students and their families. If there is ever anything that you need, or if you have any questions at all please feel free to email me at [seth.maher@ousd.org](mailto:seth.maher@ousd.org). I will return any request as soon as possible, but it is difficult to respond while I have students in the classroom. Thank you for your time and assistance. I know this will be an amazing year with growth and success for all!

***“Anything worth having is worth working for.”***

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Please have student and guardian sign below and return this document to ensure that all parties are aware of the expectations for the classroom.

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes to Mr. Maher: