

## "Science Is Discovery"

## Mr. Knowles Integrated Inquiry Science 1

## "Science Is Inquiry"

*This Handout:* This handout has important class information. Please read through each item. Here is your first class assignment: **Sign and return the last page of this syllabus prior to September 9. No late accepted whatsoever on this!**

### Course Description

This course will provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand and perform scientific inquiry with a multidisciplinary approach, including the physical, life, and earth sciences. The conceptual framework for this course may include questions and concepts that guide scientific investigations, structure and properties of matter, structure of atoms, cellular structure and function, behavior of organisms, and the nature and processes of the physical environment. Students will develop inquiry skills including scientific reading, writing, organization, and laboratory/technology skills.

### Communication

- **Class Website:** Please visit our class website! Your family can easily keep informed about what's happening in class. The page will have links to classroom and grading policies, assignments, and due dates. If you have a missing assignment or a planned absence, you can find out what we did/will be doing:

How to Find our Class Website:

→www.mountsihighschool.com →Directory →Staff →K-M →Knowles  
→Select the appropriate class (Integrate Inquiry Science 1, etc.)

There will be a file posted with all assignments listed, i.e. "Integrated Inquiry Science 1 2011-12".

It will list all the assignments for every day in the year, up to the current week.

- **Edmodo:** *Coming soon to a classroom near you...*

### Materials

Students are required to supply:

- Composition notebook (80 pages or greater, college ruled)
- MSHS Student Planner (must have it in class daily for recording assignments and for use of hall passes)
- Scientific calculator (a graphing calculator is not required)
- Two pens, two pencils and loose-leaf paper – keep secured in a small 3-ring binder and/or envelope organizer

Textbooks will be checked out to students during the first week of class. Students should bring their textbooks home and leave them there; **you are responsible for their upkeep until return – i.e.: cover!**; a class set will be available for daily use at school.

### Grading

- **On-line Gradebook:** Grades are posted on-line through Skyward. Your login and password are the same as they were when you were in middle-school! Students new to the district should report to the librarian for their login information.

*To check grades on-line:*

→mountsihighschool.com →Online Grades (lower left corner)

→Login using the login given to you (NOT the same as the eFolio login):

Login: \*\*\*\*000 (these are zeroes)

Pwd: \*\*\*\*\*

→Grading (lower left again). Click on the 'calculator icon' to see your student's grades!

- ✓ please be aware that all assignments with a specific due date will not appear immediately on the report but will be posted up to 2 weeks later after grading assignment
- **Missing Assignments:** when I list an assignment in the grade book, I also enter the due date. Once the due date has passed, the on-line grade book will list the assignment as "missing" until the score is entered. This will not affect your student's grade! If you look carefully, you will see the score column is blank or has an asterisk (\*). Once I enter scores, if your student is genuinely missing the assignment (didn't turn it in or turned it in without their name on it), then I will enter a zero (0) in the score column. Then you will know that I have processed the assignment and the missing work is now affecting your grade!

- **“No Name/Mislabeled/Illegible” Work:** Students sometimes forget to write their names on their work, or fail to label their work (i.e. Chapter 1.2), or produce something entirely illegible. This work is put into a basket labeled the “*Pit of Despair*”. This basket is recycled every month. If a student thinks they’ve turned in an assignment but it is missing in the grade book, please check The Pit. If you find your work in The Pit, I will enter it with a 50% score reduction, one time only. After that, I will remove the missing mark but the score will remain zero in the grade book.

Category	%	Description
Assessments	50 %	Formal and informal assessments including tests, quizzes, etc.
Participation / Professionalism	20 %	Participation during class activities and discussions, general attitude and helpfulness, care of lab equipment, turning work in on time. Use of bathrooms should be done during your passing period. Be in class with your work ready before the bell rings.
Notebook	15%	Composition notebook contains an accurate Table of Contents, up-to-date entries, all work shown regardless of tidiness but final product should be clear and well-organized, graphs and tables labeled and presentable. Final write-up of labs and activities are of Final Draft Quality (FDQ).
Projects & Presentations	15%	We will have a science project due each semester. In addition, there will be frequent opportunities for small group presentations. Grading will be based upon correct and appropriate use of scientific process, accuracy, quality of work and professionalism.

- Late Work: Maximum 80% score if one day late, 50% if two days late, and 10% maximum thereafter. Please see your teacher **prior to due date** if circumstances prevent you from meeting deadlines. Final projects may not be turned in late for any reason.

## Safety Considerations

Each student is responsible for cleaning and maintaining the lab stations and equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, the following expectations:

- Follow safety requirements and guidelines, and use materials as directed.
- Do not sit on lab station tables at any time for *any reason whatsoever*.
- Report damaged, missing or unclean materials to the teacher at the beginning of class.
- Clean all equipment after use and return work stations to pristine condition before being dismissed from class. If you leave your lab station or equipment dirty or unfit for the next group to use, you will lose all credit for that day and pay fines for damaged equipment. This applies to all members of a lab group.
- Food & beverages (except water in a clear bottle & secured top) are not allowed in class. Gum chewing is a **privilege!**
- Protective eyewear is required in many labs – must be worn at all times during the lab experimentation process.
- Please refer to the “Safety Rules in the High School Science Classroom”

## Expectations and MSHS Policies

OUCH!

- Behave in a manner that allows others to learn. Be considerate and respectful; don’t pollute the fountain of knowledge.
- MSHS Hall Passes: Your student agenda is your hall pass; you may not leave class without it. Don’t use one at all? **XC!**
- MSHS Tardy Policy: The MSHS penalty is a 1% reduction in your grade for EACH tardy! You must be *moving towards your seat* when the bell rings, work out, **prepared** and ready for instruction. Makeup for an excused tardy is possible. **Ask!**
- MSHS Absence Policy: You may have 11 excused absences after which you fail the course unless you file a formal appeal. If you are absent, please refer to our class webpage for a list of assignments and due dates. There is no excuse for not knowing what you missed! It is your accountability to find out what you missed using the assignment board and website.
- Missed Exams and Assignments: Students who miss class on the day of an exam are required to make it up immediately upon their return to school. If a student misses 2 or more days prior to an exam, they may have an equivalent number of school days during which they must take the exam. If a student neglects taking the exam during that time, a ‘zero’ will be entered. Arrange makeup on lab assignments with Mr. K immediately upon return and he will discuss timing with you.
- Electronic Devices: Cell phones, Ipods and other electronic devices are not permitted in the classroom without prior approval. There will be instances in which we video-tape lessons and/or take still shots. Students **MUST** have permission before using electronic devices. Do not operate under the “do now, ask permission later”.

Mr. Knowles  
Integrated Inquiry Science 1

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (student name), have read and agreed to follow all policies and expectations in the MSHS school planner and in the syllabus provided by my science teacher.

**Must be turned in, completed and signed no later than Friday September 9<sup>th</sup> for points! No late on this!**

*Student Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Student signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Student email:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent/Guardian Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent/Guardian Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent/Guardian email:* \_\_\_\_\_