



# Vista del Lago High School

## *Science Course Policies*

### Science Description

Through the implementation of the CA NGSS, all students kindergarten through grade twelve (K–12) will have the opportunity to thrive in a 21<sup>st</sup> century world which demands an increasingly sophisticated ability to make personal decisions, use technology proficiently, solve humanity's current and future challenges, and participate wisely in a democratic society. At the same time, the CA NGSS will ensure that K–12 science education strives to achieve the same vision of the National Research Council's *A Framework for K–12 Science Education*:

*The overarching goal of our framework for K–12 science education is to ensure that by the end of 12th grade, all students have some appreciation of the beauty and wonder of science; possess sufficient knowledge of science and engineering to engage in public discussions on related issues; are careful consumers of scientific and technological information related to their everyday lives; are able to continue to learn about science outside school; and have the skills to enter careers of their choice, including (but not limited to) careers in science, engineering, and technology. (National Research Council [NRC] 2012, 1)*

These new CA NGSS work in combination with the adopted standards in other disciplines, including the California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects (CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy), California Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CA CCSSM), and the California English Language Development (CA ELD) Standards. Used together, they outline a high-quality educational program for all students.

### Lab Write-Up

[Writing Lab Reports](#)

## Homework & Late Work Policy

Homework is essential to students learning of the material and needs to be completed to the best of a student's ability. Late homework will be accepted, at the teacher discretion, up until the unit exam for no more than half credit.

Laboratory work is essential to building key skills and content knowledge in all science courses. Late lab write-ups will be accepted, at the teacher discretion, two days past the original due date for no more than half credit.

## Science Assessment Expectations

The purpose of an assessment is for students and teachers to gain knowledge about a student's mastery of the curriculum. In order to accurately assess a student's level of understanding, the classroom environment needs to be free of distractions and/or devices that may contain information and influence the outcome of the assessment.

The following expectations will be in place in ALL science classrooms during assessment times and/or anytime that an assessment is out in the classroom.

- All backpacks/student belongings will be placed in one location at the front or back of the classroom for the entire duration of the assessment.
- ALL electronic devices (cell phones, smart phones, smart watches, etc. . . ) must be placed in the student's backpack/purse/etc. . . for the entire duration of the assessment. If a student is found to have an electronic device on their person during the assessment time, the phone will be sent to the Assistant Principal's office and subject to a search.
- No graphing calculators are to be utilized during an assessment (except AP Chemistry and AP Physics).
- Scientific calculators that do not allow storage of information are acceptable on assessments (except AP Environmental Science).
- All additional notes, handouts, etc. . . allowed during an assessment are at the teacher discretion.
- Any approved note cards will be collected at the end of the exam.

## Retake Policy (Does not apply to AP or Honors courses)

Test retakes allow students with an additional opportunity to demonstrate mastery for a unit of study.

- The retake grade will replace the original exam grade in the gradebook (even if the retake grade is lower than the original exam grade).
- A unit exam can only be retaken once. Students are allowed one retake per semester. The last exam of each semester cannot be retaken due to timing constraints. Final exams cannot be retaken.
- Retakes must be completed in one sitting – students will not be given extra time if they are late to the retake or if they do not understand the content well enough to finish the retake

during the allotted time.

- Students will retake the entire exam.
- To be eligible for the retake, students must have completed all homework on time (unless they have made prior arrangements with their teacher). Students must also meet the requirements of his/her teacher (this may include, but is not limited to test corrections, reflections, additional assignments, tutoring, etc.).
- Retakes will occur on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30-3pm in the testing room - not during instructional time or advisory. The teacher will announce/post the retake dates and students must make arrangements to complete the retake during one of the provided times (there are no special exceptions for athletic practices, club meetings, appointments, etc.). It is the student's responsibility to sign-up for a retake in advance. If a student does not show up for their scheduled re-take they will lose the opportunity for their re-take that semester.

**It is extremely important that students study for the retake test. This might include tutoring, test corrections, reviewing old quizzes, completing additional assignments, etc.**

### **Academic Dishonesty Policy**

In addition to the school-wide behavioral consequences for academic dishonesty, if a student is caught cheating on any assessment (formative or summative) there will be academic consequences. A subsequent cheating event may result in a drop "F" from the course.