Mr. Sirtoli  
7th-8th STEM Tech Teacher  
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Descriptions/Objectives – The STEM acronym stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. All of these academic disciplines rely heavily on each other, and are highly integrated in the professional and academic world. For example, an engineer will apply scientific knowledge about the chemistry of materials, mathematics, computer simulations, and physics when designing a bridge.

This course is intended to integrate the STEM fields through project based learning. Students will be engaged by frequent hands-on activities geared towards combining each of the STEM disciplines. Creativity and collaboration will be encouraged as students solve problems. The class is divided into four main units: physics, biology, chemistry, and engineering. Each unit will have an instructional component, formal laboratory component, and project component. During the project phase, students will be presented with a challenge. During this phase they must draw upon their knowledge of the scientific method and STEM disciplines, collaborate with peers, and apply their own creative process to find solutions to the problem. An emphasis will be placed on data collection and analysis.

Grading for STEM Tech

Grades are calculated based on the average of possible points as compared to earned points. Each assignment/assessment is assigned a point value. Each student will receive a participation grade each day and a weekly test grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tests/ Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class work</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labs/ Projects</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell work/ participation, preparedness</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Homework

- Expect homework daily.
- Assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the scheduled due date.
- Follow the Brookfield Homework Policy guidelines (see below)
Brookfield CSD 7-12 Grading and Homework Policy

- The grading and homework policy must be signed by both the parent(s) and student and returned at the beginning of school year.
- Individual teachers will decide the percentages of participation vs. graded work when calculating averages.
- The grading and homework policy in addition to other important class information is available on the individual teacher’s page on the Brookfield Central School website and syllabus.

**Homework policy:**
- Homework is due at the beginning of class.
- If homework is not submitted at the beginning of class, students will be assigned lunch detention to finish the assignment(s). Lunch detention will be served until the assignment(s) has been completed.
- Any assignment(s) not turned in on time will earn a grade of zero until the assignment is turned in. An assignment(s) turned in within two days will be given a reduced grade in the following manner: 1 Day Late: 50%, 2 Days Late: 80%
- The reduced grade is based on the grade the student would have earned if the assignment(s) was turned in on time.
- Any assignment(s) not turned in within two days of its due date will receive a grade no higher than a zero.
- Students are responsible for the content of homework, regardless of when it is turned in.
- **Student Absences:** Students are responsible for meeting with teachers to discuss what they missed when absent from class. The following applies to homework for the different absence situations:
  - If a student is absent the day the homework is due, then it becomes due by the beginning of the next class period that student attends (e.g. if the student is absent on Monday, then the student is expected to submit it by the beginning of class on Tuesday).
  - If a student is absent the day the homework is assigned, then it becomes due by the beginning of the next class period after the day the student returns to school (e.g. if the student is absent on Monday and present for class on Tuesday, the student is expected to submit any homework that was due on Tuesday by the beginning of class on Wednesday).
  - Under extreme extenuating circumstances, the above requirements may be waived with Teacher or Principal approval. In this case, students will discuss with their teacher(s) a timeline for completing missed assignments.

**Test corrections:**
- Only 7th and 8th grade students will be given the opportunity to complete test or essay corrections for credit.
- It is mandatory that 7th and 8th grade students on the Deficiency List or who have failed a test complete test or essay corrections.

I have read and agree to follow the above Grading and Homework policy. It is also understood that there may be some assignments individual teachers may find it necessary to implement an alternate homework submission policy. In these cases, students will be made aware of submission expectations in advanced.
**Additional Assignments**

Additional assignments and family projects are meant to enrich learning and will be assigned throughout the year. Students will be given instructions, rubrics and due dates when these projects are assigned.

**STEM Notebook**

All students are required to maintain a science notebook (binder) which must be used to prepare for tests and which must be brought to class daily. All students should review the notes daily at home.
General Class Rules and Expectations

Class Expectations

- Safe
- Respectful
- Responsible
- On task
- Positive attitude

Consequences

Inappropriate behavior (depending on the nature, severity, or frequency) may result in one or more of the following actions by the teacher:

- Verbal/Visual warning
- Conference with student
- Phone call to parents
- Conference with parent(s) & student
- Lunch detention

Preparedness

Being prepared for class is an important part of a student’s responsibility for learning. Therefore, students are required to bring all necessary materials to class each day. Students who do not come to class with all supplies will face consequences.

If for any reason you cannot get the supplies needed, please let me know! I will do what I can to make sure your child is prepared for class.

Supplies and items required daily in STEM Tech include:

The following supplies are required daily:

1. Pencils/ pens
2. Notebook
3. Binder

Class Participation

Students are expected to participate in classroom discussion and labs. This is an essential part of the learning experience. Students will be graded on their participation during class activities, labs, and bell ringers.
Restrooms
Students are expected to take care of their personal needs during passing period and lunch. Students are not allowed to go to the restroom during class except in cases of emergencies. Restroom use will be monitored and stopped if used excessively.

Hats
Students are not allowed to wear hats in school, or in my classroom.

Cell Phones
Students are not allowed to use cell phones during class. If cell phones are not kept in your pocket, you will be asked to put it into the cell phone bin.

Attendance
School attendance is critical to academic achievement.

Missed exams or assignments – All students have the opportunity to make up missed work. Please schedule a time to make up work as soon as you return to class. Students who do not schedule a time to complete missed work or tests will receive zero points (0) on all assignments that were missed during an absence. Students will serve lunch detention to make up missed assignments.

A quick note from Mr. Sirtoli:

This year I will work to ensure that every student is receiving the best education possible. Please feel free to contact me for any questions or concerns you may have in regards to your child’s education. The best way to contact me is through email, asirtoli@brookfieldcsd.org.

I believe that Parent/Teacher communication is important and I look forward to working with you and your child throughout the year. Thank you!

Mr. Sirtoli