

St. Joseph Catholic School
STEM (K-5), Science (K-5), and Robotics (6-8) Policies and Safety Acknowledgement
Dress Code and Grading

Dress Code:

Students have been advised of my policy regarding Dress Code violations. Should students have jewelry that is not allowed per Dress Code, it will be confiscated, bagged, labeled, and stored. The last week of each trimester, students may come to have the item(s) returned. I will not be sending out reminders at the end of the Trimester.

Grading:

Students in my classes do not receive a number grade. Instead, they are Pass/Fail. In order to Pass, students need to have an average of 60% or higher. I do not give out many assignments for a grade, so it's important that students do their best work on the few graded work assignments or quizzes they get. They should also make sure to turn everything in since a 0 will have a large impact on their average. I will accept late work for up to one month past the due date so that students may focus on their regular classes and assignments. I update RenWeb on Fridays to include graded work for that week. If there is an assignment missing (because it wasn't turned in or the student was out sick), you will receive a "zero notice" email when grades are entered. That grade will be replaced once the work is submitted within a month of the due date.

Science:

Our Science program is based on Next Generation Science Standards and includes activities to supplement the topics students will be learning in each grade level. In Kindergarten, 1st, or 2nd grades, that might look like excavating different chips and raisins out of cookies. In older grades, it might include collecting iron filings from the ground, or making Playdough or slime out of household items. Some of those household items include vinegar, salt, flour, oil, baking soda, baking powder, Borax, isopropyl alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, and very hot/cold water. Students will conduct labs using materials referenced for labs listed in the science curriculum for their grade level, with a couple fun extras they'll enjoy as well that are appropriate for their grade level.

I have conducted a safety lesson to ensure students are prepared for planned labs and know how to correctly use goggles, aprons, and/or gloves. We have reviewed the attached Elementary Science Safety Acknowledgement Form in class and discussed my expectations of safe behavior for students. Please review this again with your child and then return a signed copy to me so that your child is able to participate in the labs.

If your child has any known allergies to either food or other household items (vinegar, latex, etc.), has skin sensitivities, or is sensitive to strong scents, please email me directly at emiller@stjosephstucsonaz.org and copy Mrs. Ruiz, the nurse, at gruiz@stjosephstucsonaz.org. I can then adjust to modify a given activity for your child so they are still able to participate.

Science Fair:

This year, students in grades 3-5 will not be required to complete an individual Science Fair project. I will continue to teach the Scientific Method, and we will do class experiments so students still have hands-on experience with the process. If your child would still like to do an individual project, even though it's no longer required, please let me know and I will provide guidance to help them through the process.

STEM/Robotics:

Students are expected to follow directions and to be responsible when using tools for engineering items in STEM or Robotics classes. In STEM, students will be cutting (paper, plastic, and cardboard), gluing (older students might use a hot glue gun), and building a variety of projects also based on our STEM curriculum.

In Robotics, I give students the opportunity each year to dismantle computer equipment in order to see what they contain and how the parts work together. For our older students, they might be given the chance to attempt to cut and splice wires for headphones or other small items. They'll be able to fly the drones we have (a favorite activity) in addition to coding robots.

The students seem to really enjoy these activities and they enrich their school experiences. Again, though, please review with your child the importance of following directions and practicing safe behavior while in class. Thank you for your support!

Respectfully,

Ms. Miller

Eileen Miller
K-5 STEM and Science
MS Robotics