

Welcome Freshmen!

I am the ninth grade Integrated Science teacher and South House/Ecology House advisor. While all of you will get to know me as one of your four core academic teachers, I am also the art and dance teacher on campus. This upcoming 2014-2015 year will be my 17th year at iPoly.

Despite what many people think, my (and most other scientists too) degree is not just in 'science.' There are hundreds of different types of scientists and science degrees. I earned a B.S. degree (that's Bachelor's of Science) in Biology with a minor emphasis in Zoology, and yes, I have worked in a zoo as a zookeeper. I have been bit by toucan Sam, yelled at by howler monkeys, sneezed on by a 100 pound rodent called a capybara, and hugged by a giant three-toed sloth. This just seemed the natural progression of things after working through college as a vet technician in a veterinary hospital for exotics. Once, we repaired a tortoise shell with surfboard fiberglass after it was run over by a car. Obviously I am an animal lover, as you can tell from my room, but I also love forensic science. Some of my favorite classes in school were forensic anthropology, pathology, myrmecology and parasitology. My senior project in college was on parasites. Gross, I know, but interesting. I have some stories to tell, but those will come in time.

As you may already know, science is mandatory for all four years here at iPoly, so it is my job to give you the general overview of all of the different branches of science through the context of the environment, while reviewing and preparing you for your next three years. We will explore biology, ecology, botany, genetics, geology, seismology, cytology, oceanography, microbiology, evolution, and even a little chemistry. My science course is U.C. approved and is a graduation requirement for iPoly.

There are two books you will be using dually: *Biology: Cycles of Life and Environmental Science*. These will be used as reference books for my content. Sometimes I assign chapters in the book, but most of the time, you are to be reading the book as it parallels content in my class on your own. I expect you to take notes a lot and I expect you to think about what you are learning. I expect you to comprehend material and understand it, not just memorize facts. Expect to do a lot of labs, group presentations, activities and experiments. Oh, and be prepared to draw a lot for your lab book. Don't worry, I'll teach you how. Lab work is usually worth 20-25 points. Homework is usually worth 5. Tests are 100-200. Project components are 100, and quizzes around 20-30. Your final grade in my class will be earned on a point system. Late work is not accepted, unless from and absence, so remember to do your work! There is no extra credit and my class must be passed with an "AP," (equivalent to a "C") to meet college entrance requirements.

Materials for my class are a composition book, a metric ruler, colored pencils, an HB woodless graphite art pencil, eraser, tortillion smudgers an art sketch book, and an 8X10" 8th grade photo of self. If you have questions, remember the 9th grade teachers have a group email: iPoly9@gmail.com. It is only checked once a week, so do not ask me something the night before something is due!

Ms. Cancino
9th Grade Integrated Science & Environmental Biology
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