

AI Use Policy

In this class, we are working to become learners who are:

- **Inquirers** who ask strong questions
- **Thinkers** who solve problems
- **Principled** learners who act with honesty
- **Communicators** who explain ideas clearly
- **Open-minded** learners who consider different perspectives
- **Reflective** learners who think about how they learn

AI can be a powerful tool, but your thinking matters most. This policy explains how to use it the right way.

1. Your Thinking Comes First

AI can support your learning, but it cannot replace your own thinking.

You are expected to:

- Try the task yourself first.
- Use AI only when it is allowed.
- Make your own decisions.
- Explain your ideas in your own words.
- Show your process.
- Be able to explain anything you turn in.

Class rule: If you cannot explain it, you should not submit it as your own work.

2. AI Use Levels for Each Assignment

Before each assignment, I will tell you which level of AI use is allowed. This is the most important part to check. If you are not sure which level applies, ask before you start.

Level	What it means
Level 0 — No AI	Do not use AI for this task.
Level 1 — AI for Help	You may use AI to explain ideas, define words, or ask questions.
Level 2 — AI for Feedback	You may use AI to get feedback, organize ideas, or revise your own work.
Level 3 — AI for Creating	You may use AI as part of a project, design challenge, model, or investigation. You must explain how you used it.

3. What You Can Use AI For

When AI is allowed, you may use an approved AI tool to:

Understand science ideas

- Explain a science concept in simpler words—for example, asking it to explain photosynthesis in an easier way.
- Give examples—such as examples of independent and dependent variables.
- Help with vocabulary, or ask questions about something confusing.
- Review a topic before or after class.

Support your inquiry (your questions and investigations)

- Brainstorm research questions or possible investigation ideas.
- Help plan how to organize your information or notes from a science article.
- Suggest what evidence you might need.

Improve your communication

- Check your grammar or spelling after you write your own paragraph.
- Help organize your writing, or give feedback on a CER response.
- Help translate words or phrases to support your understanding.

Remember: you are still responsible for the final work.

4. What You Cannot Use AI For

You may not use AI to:

- Copy and paste an answer and turn it in as your own.
- Have AI write your whole assignment, or write your CER for you.
- Use AI on a quiz, test, or assessment unless I clearly allow it.
- Make fake data, fake sources, fake observations, or fake experiment results.
- Submit an AI-made graph or image without saying it came from AI.
- Complete a project you do not actually understand.
- Pretend AI-created work is your own.
- Avoid thinking, reading, writing, designing, or explaining.

Remember: if AI creates the answer for you, that is not your own work.

5. Academic Integrity Means Honesty

What it means: Academic integrity is acting with honesty, fairness, and responsibility in your work.

In this class, academic integrity means:

- Your work shows your own thinking.
- You give credit for ideas, words, images, graphs, or data that are not yours.
- You are honest about when and how you used AI.
- You do not try to gain an unfair advantage.

If you use AI text, an AI image, an AI graph, or AI ideas in your work, you must say so. The next section shows you how.

6. Be Honest About AI: Your AI Use Note

What it means: Being honest about when and how you used AI is called transparency. We show it with an “AI Use Note.”

When AI is allowed and you use it, add an AI Use Note to your work. You can copy these sentence starters and fill in the blanks:

- The AI tool I used was _____.
- The prompt or question I gave it was _____.
- It helped me _____.
- After that, I changed, checked, or improved _____.
- The part that shows my own thinking is _____.

Example: I used Gemini to help me understand the word “homeostasis.” My prompt was, “Explain homeostasis for a 7th grade science student.” It helped me understand the idea. After that, I wrote my own sentence in my own words and added my own example about body temperature.

7. Check AI Like a Scientist

AI can make mistakes. It can also leave out important ideas or show bias.

What is bias? Bias means an answer leans one way and leaves out other people, ideas, or points of view.

When you use AI, ask yourself:

- Is this accurate?
- What evidence supports this?
- What source can I use to check this?
- Is this answer missing another point of view, or could it include bias?
- Does this make sense with what we learned in class?

Remember: do not trust AI just because it sounds confident.

8. Respect People, Cultures, and Communities

Science affects real people and real communities. When we use AI, we will use respectful language and watch for stereotypes or bias.

An example: If you ask AI for examples of healthy meals and it only shows food from one culture, ask yourself: whose foods are missing? AI should help us become more thoughtful, not less.

So when we use AI, we will:

- Consider different cultures and experiences.
- Ask whose voices may be missing.
- Think about how science and technology can affect people differently.

9. Protect Privacy and Safety

Never enter private information into an AI tool. Do not share things like:

- Passwords, home addresses, or phone numbers.
- Private family information or medical information.
- Student names or personal information about another person.

Only use AI tools approved by me or the school, such as Gemini (gemini.google.com).

10. What Happens If AI Is Misused?

If there is a concern that your work is not your own, I may ask you to:

- Explain your work, or show your notes, drafts, or process.
- Show your AI Use Note.
- Redo part of the assignment with teacher support.
- Complete a short reflection about academic integrity.
- Complete the work again under supervision.

Work that is not your own cannot be accepted as your final work. The goal is not just punishment—it is to protect fairness, rebuild trust, and help you learn with integrity.

11. Our Class Promise

In this class, we use AI to:

- Ask better questions and learn more deeply.
- Think critically and solve problems.
- Create responsibly and communicate clearly.
- Respect people and communities, and act with integrity.

AI can be powerful, but your thinking matters most.

Student Agreement

I understand that AI is a tool to support my learning, not replace it. I agree to use AI responsibly, be honest about when I use it, check AI information carefully, and submit work that shows my own thinking.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____