

Syllabus for Physical Science

Course Description

The Physical Science curriculum will integrate the following topics from both physics and chemistry: structure of atoms, structure and properties of matter, motion and forces, conservation of energy, matter, and charge.

PREREQUISITE: Completed or taking Math I

Course Materials

Required Materials: 3-ring binder (one inch), paper, pencil, pen, calculator

Instructional Philosophy

Students taking physical science can expect an engaging, hands-on, and inquiry-based learning experience. Relevant examples from the scientific community will be incorporated into lessons and activities. Students will be prepared to enter and become a part of a rapidly changing world as scientific advances are altering the way we live.

Course Standards

The Essential Standards as published by the NC Department of Public Instruction are available at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/curriculum/science/scos/support-tools/new-standards/science/physical.pdf>

Major Course Projects and Assignments

Assignments are to be completed by the beginning of the block on the due date. I do not accept late work! No exceptions.

You will make arrangements for missed work according to the school policy. I accept little responsibility for work that you have missed, since it is your responsibility to get your assignments and make sure they are turned back in to me in a timely manner.

Assessment and Grading Plan

A variety of assignments contribute to the final six weeks grade in this course. The final letter grade is assigned according to UCPS grading policy. (A= 100-90%, B= 89-80%, C= 79-70%, D= 69-60%, F=59% or below.)

My grading policy is a weighted percentage system. All assignments are graded out of 100%.

Homework and classwork will count 40% towards your final grade and quizzes and tests will count 60%.

The semester grade will be calculated as follows: 25% First grading period, 25% Second grading period, 25% Third grading period, 25% NC Final Exam. All students will be required to take the final exam, NO EXCEPTIONS! Homework and class work may be collected and graded either for completion or accuracy. At times, these assignments will not be graded, but we will go over the answers in class. Quizzes will take place periodically to assess understanding and may be announced or unannounced. Tests will be scheduled at the end of every unit. A grade of 1 in the gradebook indicates an assignment that can be made up and still receive full credit. A grade of 0 in the gradebook indicates an assignment that can no longer be made up for credit.

Behavior

Classroom Expectations: (In addition to the UCPS and CATA rules)

- Come to class prepared.
- Always follow directions.
- Show respect for yourself, other students, and the teacher.

Consequences for inappropriate behavior:

1. Warning
2. Repeated warnings will result in referral to administrator OR direct referral if necessary according to Student handbook

Online Learning Platform

Canvas: Some assignments will be submitted on our new "learning platform," Canvas. Assignments can be submitted a variety of ways including, uploading files, typing into text boxes, and sharing Google documents/presentations. Individual assignments will indicate which method of submission on Canvas is expected. If students need a refresher or have questions, they can access the [Canvas Student Guide](#) for specific instructions. It is the student's responsibility to ensure assignments are submitted on time and to contact the instructor if there is a problem. The Canvas Learning Platform logs every student log-in on Canvas which provides teachers with a list of when students log-in to Canvas using their user id.

Canvas is used to grade assignments as well, however, the grades in Canvas, while accurate to that assignment, are NOT the teacher's gradebook. The teacher's gradebook includes categories of assignments that may be weighted differently and may include grades for assignments that did not use the Canvas Learning Platform. Therefore, students and parents should always check their child's true average on the Parent Portal on Powerschool.

Outside Help

You are encouraged to seek help early and often if you are struggling in this course. I usually get here by 7:30am Monday – Thursday if you need help with anything. I am available after school by appointment only.