



Physical Science



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Course Description:

Physical Science is the study of matter and energy. Physical science explores the correlation between matter and energy through text, classroom discussions, and laboratory discoveries and projects. Students will develop scientific, technological and mathematical literacy through scientific text and lab experiences. Students will apply the scientific method in laboratory explorations and will acquire a basic foundation in physics and chemistry.

Blended/Flipped Curriculum:

This will be a blended curriculum, meaning students get the most meaningful face-to-face interaction with me along with differentiated online instruction. The reason I choose to try this new way of teaching Physical Science is I feel it is the best way to build content knowledge, develop 21st century skills, meets each student's academic needs and tap into their personal interests. Everything the students need online will be linked through my website (listed above), Infinite Campus, and Schoology. Because this will be a blended class, homework will be a combination of paper-pencil and online assignments.

Topics Covered (as time allows):

Lab Safety

Digital Citizenship

Forces & Motion

Waves

Electricity

Matter

Chemical Properties

Reactions

Supplies:

Textbook: Holt *Science Spectrum Physical Science* with paper bookcover (optional)

Pens/Pencils (pencils recommended for labs)

Calculator (there is a calculator app on the chromebook, but I would recommend a handheld scientific calculator)

Grading (District-wide grading scale):

In this science class, a standards-based grading approach will be used. You may have heard nothing about this approach to grading or you may have heard all kinds of things. The reasons that I decided to use this approach include the following:

- I want students' science grades to reflect what they know and don't know about science content.
- I want to be able to tell students specifically what they do and do not understand about science.
- I want to develop a culture of risk-taking and embracing mistakes as part of the learning process.
- I want to empower students to reflect on their own learning and learn HOW to learn.
- I want students to be clear what content they are supposed to learn, and not make them guess that information from handouts and activities.

Standards Scale (used for grading assessments/tests):

4	Expert/Exceptional	My response shows I understand the content/skills completely and can explain them in detail at a level beyond this course and make connections not explicitly taught in class.
3.5	Strong	My response shows I understand the content/skills completely and can explain them in detail.
3	Capable/Proficient	My response shows I understand the important things about the content/skills.
2.5	Developing	My response shows I have a general understanding of the content/skills, but I'm still confused about some important parts.
2	Beginning	My response shows I do not understand the concept/skills.
0	No Evidence/Attempt	I do not provide a response to show my level of understanding.

Daily Check for Understanding (used for daily work/practice)

4	I understand it. I could teach this to my parents.
3	I understand it.
2	I think I get it, but I'm still getting some problems wrong.
1	I don't get it. I need help.

Daily Work/Practice in Infinite Campus

(will not be counted in their grade, will just be for your reference)

2 = work completed & on time

1 = work was not complete and/or late

0 = work was not completed

Discipline Procedures:

Discipline is up to the teacher's discretion depending on the situation. Possible consequences are verbal warning, conference outside of class, phone call or email home, detention, or removal from class.

Classroom Expectations:

- Students will come to class prepared. (chromebook will be charged)
- Students will respect staff, other students, and property belonging to others.
- Students are expected to come to class with a positive attitude and be attentive and motivated to learn. All I ask is that you always try YOUR best.
- Students will listen carefully and follow directions. This is especially important during labs.
- Students are expected to be in their seat when the bell rings, clean up their area before leaving class, and wait to be dismissed by the teacher not the bell.

Thanks also for getting involved with your child's education.

With your help we should have an outstanding school year!