

Physical Science Course Outline (Tentative)

FIRST SEMESTER

1. Math & Science Tools
2. Speed Velocity & Acceleration
3. Force
4. Simple Machines
5. Work and Energy
6. Electricity
7. Gravitation
8. Magnetism
9. Electromagnetism
10. Harmonic Motion
11. Waves & Sound

SECOND SEMESTER

12. Light & Optics
13. Properties of Matter
14. Atomic Structure
15. Chemical Bonding & Equations
16. Reactions
17. Solubility & Water
18. Acids & Bases
19. Heating & Cooling
20. Plate Tectonics

Mr. Smith's Syllabus for Physical Science

EXPECTATIONS

Students enrolled in applied physical science are expected to use solid study skills. This is not a course in which a student can simply attend class and learn the material.

Active participation in class activities, completion of all work assigned, and solid preparation for tests is a minimum requirement for success. Solid effort will be rewarded in this class.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

- Teacher observation sheets recording qualities considered necessary to be successful in this course by the class.
- Observations done every day. Averaged and entered into the grade book by the week.

COMMUNICATION AND GROUP EFFECTIVENESS

The class will be based heavily on teamwork. The purpose of this approach is for you to gain from the abilities and talents

of group effort and for you to learn to function more effectively in these situations.

- Teacher observations recorded on use of 18" voices, giving encouraging comment, listening to each other, working together on tasks, staying on task, etc. This is averaged and entered into grade book by the week.
- Group task assignment, signed and submitted by all members of the group.
- Class presentation prepared by the group.
- Each group will periodically complete a group process evaluation sheet and agree upon group skills to work on for the next time period.
- Groups generally work together for a specific number of weeks.

HOMEWORK

- Must be reasonably **neat, complete, and readable**. May not be graded if this is not so.
- Students must **show all work** to receive credit. Answers only receive a zero.
- Must have heading, including page number, date, and assignment number in **upper right corner of paper**.
- Number of minutes** used to complete assignment must be recorded on top center of page.
- Homework checked for **completeness and effort** before gone over in class. This is averaged and entered into gradebook by the week.
- Full credit is given for incomplete problems if student writes out, in a complete sentence, what is not understood. (This frequently results in students answering their own questions. The work may be done below the sentence.)
- Late work entered as a 50% up to one week late. NOTE: This is much better than a 0!
- Selected assignments **will be collected** announced or unannounced for closer grading.

NOTEBOOK REQUIRED

- Must be **in class and up to date** each day. Loose-leaf binder is best.
- When **absent**, get what you missed from Edline. Do as much as you can and then get help with what you don't understand.
- Contains class notes and individual reactions and writing about **ideas and concepts** observed from videos, experiments, and explorations.
- You are expected to take notes in class. Everything we say and do may appear later on an assessment instrument.
- Includes all graded and corrected assessments such as projects, writing assignments, presentations, quizzes, performance tasks, tests that are not filed in student's assessment portfolio.
- Students will have periodic notebook quizzes which will be timed and unannounced. A high score can only be obtained by keeping an organized, up-to-date notebook and bringing it to class every day.
- May be used as a resource for preparing for tests and exams. It is in the student's best interest to keep the notebook up to date & in class every day.

LABORATORY EXERCISES

- Some labs will require a lengthy lab report; others will have information written directly on a handout.
- Most exercises require preparation by the student prior to entering the lab. Any student who wastes time in lab reading the instructions for the first time will not be given additional time to finish.
- Labs must be ready to **turn in when students enter the classroom** on the day they are due.
- Must be reasonably **neat, complete, and readable**. May not be graded if this is not so. Typed is best on formal lab write-ups.
- Labs may be submitted by groups and one paper may be graded at random.

SPECIAL SAFETY CONCERN: *No open toe shoes. Dropping something on your foot during a lab or demonstration can be very painful with this type of footwear.*

NOTEBOOK REQUIRED

- Students are expected to take notes in class. Everything we say or do may appear later on an assessment (test, quiz, exam, etc.)
- Must be **in class and up to date** each day. Loose-leaf binder is best.
- When **absent**, get notes from classmate: exchange phone numbers and email addresses!
- Includes all homework, all lecture notes, explorations, video notes, computer/calculator explorations, labs.
- Also includes all graded and corrected assessments such as projects, writing assignments, presentations, quizzes, tests that are not filed in student's assessment portfolio.

FORMAL ASSESSMENTS

- All tests will be announced ahead of time on the assignment sheet. Quizzes may be unannounced. If you miss a quiz, the grade you earn on the test covering the same material will be used in figuring your grade.
- Once you have seen a test or quiz, you must complete it or take a zero.

If you do not complete an assessment with the class, you may be asked to complete something different. This keeps everything fair.

CHEATING

Cheating includes copying lab work, homework, or other class work from another source, including a classmate. It also includes talking/sharing during a test or quiz and giving or receiving answers on tests or quizzes. **This type of activity will not be tolerated.**

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Responsible behavior is imperative. Students are expected to pay attention during class. Everything we do may appear on an assessment.

Students are responsible for what went on in class during any absence. Get online and log into Edline to keep up with what you missed. You'll get too far behind if you don't.

- Students absent for reasons other than illness (i.e. field trips) are expected to contact teacher or classmates for assignments and **be prepared upon return** to class.
- It is the student's responsibility to arrange for make-up work and to make up the work on time. **This should be arranged at the end of the period.**
- Homework will not be accepted late. Other late work will be accepted up to a week after it is due, for a maximum of half-credit. No late work accepted after one week. Computer problems will not be accepted as an excuse. Make a backup and don't wait until the last minute.

WEIGHTING OF GRADE

May be adjusted depending upon number of items in a particular unit of study.

40%	Tests
20%	Labs
15%	Quizzes
10%	Homework
5%	Class participation average
5%	Communication and group effectiveness
5%	Notebook quiz average

MATERIALS

1. Pencil, pen
2. Color marking pens or pencils
3. Highlighter pen(s)
4. Hardback looseleaf notebook with paper
5. A calculator will be useful

EXPECTATIONS OF PHYSICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS

A key to learning is mutual respect.

- Each student is expected to show respect for the teacher and other members of the class by **not talking when another person is talking.**
- If a student wishes to be recognized, a **hand should be raised** first.
- Each student is expected to show consideration for other members of the class by maintaining **quiet testing conditions** until all students are finished with a test or quiz.

A key to learning is readiness to start class.

- When the tardy bell rings, each student should be **in his/her seat**, with all **materials ready** to begin work. This includes having the notebook open, pencils sharpened, etc.
- All matters not directly related to the day's learning activities, such as field trip forms, makeup work, etc., should be addressed at the end of the period.

A key to learning is attendance.

- **Regular attendance** is necessary to learn the material needed to pass this class.
- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to log onto Edline and make up what you miss **outside class time.**
- This includes making up labs, viewing videos, and completing class assignments. These arrangements are to be made at the **end of the class period** of your return.
- Late work will be accepted up to a week after it is due, for a maximum grade of 50%. No late work accepted after 1 week.

A key to learning is cooperation.

- Participation in daily activities is required all **period.**
- Students are expected to show respect for, and be willing to listen to, teacher and classmates.
- Class time is not to be spent on anything unrelated to that day's activities.

A key to success is responsibility

- Any form of plagiarism, including **copying another student's work**, is a violation of the school's rules.

A FINAL THOUGHT

*As a teacher and a person, I can appreciate that many students devote long hours to extracurricular activities and/or jobs. However, I have a job to do and cannot allow these situations to bear on my decisions regarding curriculum. I will make every effort to be fair. My foremost consideration is that each student learns as much as possible and that a **high grade in this class will mean something.** See me if you have extenuating circumstances.*

Do not be scared by all of this. If you have not been successful in science previously, now is your chance to put forth a serious effort and succeed. If you have been successful previously, **make**

certain you continue to apply effort and succeed. This is my goal for you, but **only you can make it happen.**

I have read and understand these Policies and Procedures.

student _____

parent/guardian _____

date _____

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