

2010-2011 8TH GRADE PHYSICAL SCIENCE SYLLABUS

Teacher: Mr. Adams

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Class Website: <http://www.avpanthers.org/science/Default.html#>

Course Description:

Textbook: Physical Science, Holt (2007)

8th grade Physical Science is a course that covers the study of non-living phenomena. This course will be organized into the following units:

- Introduction to Matter - Unit 1
- The Atom - Unit 2
- Interactions of Matter - Unit 3
- Motion and Forces- Unit 4
- Astronomy - Unit 5
- Electricity and Magnetism - Unit 6
- Waves, Sound, and Light - Unit 7

In this course, you will learn to use evidence-based reasoning and will have the opportunity to improve your reading, writing, and math skills. The learning objectives (goals) for the class are based upon the standards developed by the California Board of Education.

Homework: You will have homework two to four times a week for 15-45 minutes, depending on how well you read and comprehend the material. Homework will include reading, researching, preparing for tests, writing, and skill-building activities. Students are expected to complete homework and turn it in on time.

Work missed due to illness or special circumstances needs to be made up within the number of days the student was absent. It is the student's responsibility to ask for and turn in work after an absence. Homework assignments will be posted regularly on the class website.

Required Materials: Students must bring these materials everyday.

1. Three-ring Binder
2. Ruled (lined) Paper
3. Pen (black or blue ink)
4. Two sharpened #2 pencils
5. Science composition notebook
6. Positive attitude for learning

Grading Policy: Students are expected to carefully complete assignments. Grades are based upon the standard scale:

A= 100-90%, B = 89-80%, C = 79-70%, D = 69-60%, F = 59-0%.

Grade percentages will be based on performance in tests, homework, labs, class work and projects as follows:

Tests and Quizzes - 35%
Classwork - 25%
Homework - 25%
Participation - 15%

Tests and quizzes are designed to assess whether the learning outcomes have been achieved. You may study and retake tests and some quizzes **within one week**. The final grade on chapter tests will be the average of the two scores or a 60% depending on which is the higher score. Your final grade on quizzes will be your highest score.

Attendance: Come to school every day and be on time. If more than a one day absence is anticipated call the office to request that your assignments are brought to the attendance office for pick up. Students are allowed ten absences per semester. On the eleventh absence, the student may fail the class. Missing school for sports or school-sponsored field trips does not count as an absence, so long as that absence is cleared in advance.

Tardy Policy: Our school tardy policy states that students who arrive late to any one class four times in one quarter will have their quarter grade lowered one whole grade. Students who cut class will have their quarter grade lowered one-third of a grade for each cut. An unexcused absence (no note or phone call from a parent or guardian) will constitute a cut, so please call the school or send a note if your child is absent. Parents will be notified if their child is coming late to class or missing too much school. Come to class on time - it's a job.

Classroom Rules, Routines and Policies:

Following these rules, routines, and policies will create a professional education environment that enhances the achievement of academic success. This is the goal. Enforcement of these rules takes away from already limited instruction time. Violations will result in parent contact, detention during which students are expected to work in the classroom or garden area, and if repeated, administrative referral.

1. Show respect for everyone in the classroom. If you feel that the actions or words of another person is disrespectful, sexist, racist, or homophobic, please bring it to my attention and not to the attention of the entire class.
2. Show respect for other people's property, including the school's. Your parents/guardians will be held responsible (\$) for any school property that is damaged or destroyed by your negligence or direct intent.
3. You must be in your assigned seat and have your materials (i.e. binder, pencil) ready to go when the bell rings. Once the bell rings, read the agenda on the board and start working on the bell-ringer activity.
4. Late homework will receive partial credit. Grades on late work will be lowered one full grade each day late.
5. Copying work, or helping another student copy work, will result in a zero on that assignment.
6. Missing a test or class assignment due to an unexcused absence will result in a zero score. If your absence is excused, it is up to you to schedule a time to retake a quiz or test within one week of returning.
7. Electronic devices must be put out of reach (e.g. backpack) while in class unless I specifically give you permission to use it during class. If you are asked to hand over the device, please do so immediately. Arguing about it will only make matters worse.
8. Students are expected to participate and to do their part in group labs and activities. Refusal to participate or follow safety procedures will result in suspension from class and a zero score for that assignment.
9. All school-wide rules and consequences will be enforced.

I have read and understand the rules and expectations listed above.

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____