

Physical Science Honors Syllabus

Course Title: Physical Science Honors

Textbook: Introductory Physical Science, 8th edition

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Description:

Semester 1:

1. Safety
2. Basics
3. Science Experiments and The Scientific Method
4. Force and Motion
5. Waves
6. Basic Chemistry
7. IPS Ch 1 Volume and Mass
8. IPS Ch 2 Mass Changes in Closed Systems

Semester 2:

9. IPS Ch 3 Characteristic Properties
10. IPS Ch 4 Solubility
11. IPS Ch 5 The Separation of Mixtures
12. IPS Ch 6 Compounds and Elements
13. IPS Ch 7 Radioactivity
14. IPS Ch 8 The Atomic Model of Matter
15. IPS Ch 10 Electric Charge

No Textbook is issued for items 1 through 6. Testable information is reiterated as concise notes, which students are required to copy from the board into their folder. Tests and quizzes virtually mirror the notes.

Grading Procedure:

- Tests: 50% of overall grade and weighted equally. Tests are announced at least three days in advance.
- Quizzes: 30% of overall grade and weighted equally. Quizzes are unannounced.
- Home/Class work: 20% of overall grade. Because these assignments are typically small, Home/Class Work is graded as “complete/credit” or “incomplete/no credit”. This is intended to be an easy “A”! Yet, it can be an easy “F”, too.

Scale:	A	100	-	90
	B	89	-	80
	C	79	-	70
	D	69	-	60
	F	59	-	0

High School Credit:

- Quarter Grades are 75% of the semester grade.
- Semester exams are 25% of the semester grade.
 - These are “stand alone” exams and are not averaged into the quarter.
 - There will be no “curve”.
- Semester Grade: $Q1 + Q2 + \text{Semester Exam} = 100\%$
 $Q3 + Q4 + \text{Semester Exam} = 100\%$
- Students must earn 3 quality points for the semester to earn HS credit (this includes the semester exam)

Students who do not meet the requirements to receive Physical Science Honors high school credit *will not* have the option to move into a MJ3A Advanced 8th grade science course. The grade earned in Physical Science Honors will transfer with the student on their high school transcripts if the student enrolls in a public high school and will affect their high school GPA.

Study Suggestions:

Should a student drop their grade below an acceptable level, I have two standard suggestions. Please, understand that I do not pretend to know any family’s structure. These suggestions will be easier for some families than others given structure, schedules, energy levels, number of family members, etc.

1. Specify a two hour time block nightly when the entire household shuts down and focuses on academics. Everyone sits at a common table (if parents/guardians can not be at the table, it is best if they are at least within view). No TV, radio, music, phone calls, computers, etc. Family members (esp. siblings) may help each other. If they have finished all homework, then they may study notes or read.
2. Have a study partner, who is a successful student in my class. This is very common in the high-powered universities. The same magic occurs at all levels. The study partner should be someone with a solid GPA. They should be able to focus together, so it may be beneficial if the study partner is not involved in other areas of life nor have common interests.

Without exception, every one of my students who have sincerely applied these strategies makes A’s and B’s in my class. In time, they also develop the study habits and skills to where they no longer need these strategies imposed upon them; although, many continue to use them throughout their academic careers.

Tutoring: Tutoring is available only for struggling students with less than a C average or by special assignment. (990.20.07)

Late Assignments: Absolutely no late assignments will be accepted (except by school policy). An assignment is considered late after I have collected the assignment during class. Students will not be allowed to leave class to retrieve assignments or supplies. Under no condition may a family member bring a student's work to school. (990.20.04)

Required Heading:

Student's Full Name
Date
Period

A 10% grade reduction will be given for any assignment, test or quiz turned in without the full required heading. The heading should be the first thing done...not the last. Also, prudent students proofread their work, reaching for excellence, before they submit an assignment, test or quiz. (990.20.05)

Extra Credit: Extra credit is not a part of this class and will not be offered. Students have ample opportunities to demonstrate their mastery of the curriculum and earn the grade they desire.

Materials:

Required:

- Half-inch, three-ring, soft-cover binder
- Pencils (mechanical recommended)
- Basic four function calculator (whatever they use for Math is fine)
- Novel to be read upon completion of quizzes and tests*

Optional:

- dividers
- colored pencils
- graph paper
- safety glasses/goggles (optional as we do have a class set)

Communication:

Primary mode of communication will be Edsby, which will be updated by posting grades anytime an assignment is graded and in compliance with TCMS policy.

Email and phone messages are checked and replied daily. Please clearly give name, number and best time to call.

Miscellaneous:

There might come a time when my classes are involved in celebrating a recent event in which the reward was an ice cream party or such.

With that understanding, I am requesting that any parent who has a child who may have a food allergy or situation where their child may not partake in consuming certain food to please immediately notify, in writing, the school nurse and me of the allergy. Please also indicate that your child has been instructed by you to not consume any food items to which they will have an allergic reaction. The school assumes no liability in such a case. Should you not want your child to participate in any food type projects for any reason, please notify me immediately.

Diligent: having or showing care and conscientiousness in one's work or duties