

Welcome to 8th Grade Physical Science



My Science Fair Project was
confiscated by Homeland Security.
I guess "How to make a Nuclear
bomb" was not a good title for the
Mentos experiment

Mr. Stearns

The goal in Physical Science is to expand on the topics that you have been introduced to before. These classes will require you to work and think about the ideas and concepts presented. For most of you these classes will present a challenge, but one which can be met by continuous DAILY work. The grades you receive will be the ones you earn.

Your grade will be based on a percentaged point system so it will be easy for you to keep track of your grades. Students are encouraged to keep track of their grades.

Your grades will be based on the following criteria:

TESTS - at least three tests per nine weeks will be given, preferably four, each worth 100 points. You will need to provide paper to do problems/essays as I have found that, due to handwriting styles, the space usually provided is not large enough for all of you to complete them. A review day will precede each test to answer any questions and wrap up the chapter. I will retain the tests for future use.

Exams - I believe in comprehensive semester exams which will be about 20 % of your semester grade.

QUIZZES - at least one a week ranging from 25 to 50 points. Pop quizzes (10 points) will be taken from your homework.

WORKSHEETS - may be used depending on material. Point values will vary.

HOMEWORK - Homework is expected to be done and will always be gone over in class. The intent of homework is not to create busywork, but to strengthen concepts presented in class and should not take more than one-half to one hour to complete most of it. I view these assignments as instructional tools for you to practice on. Homework will be checked daily and a grade given for each week.

LAB REPORTS - Lab reports will follow a procedure to be outlined later. On the average of at least one lab per chapter with varying points. Each lab will be recorded with a net value of 20 points.

POSTERS - Each quarter you will be expected to do a poster presentation involving some concept of physical science or a scientist. Each poster will be worth 50 points.

SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT - You are required to do a science fair project for this class. A separate handout will be coming with all the important data but there will be points awarded each nine weeks.

I DO NOT BELIEVE IN EXTRA CREDIT!

Group work: Work done in class is usually done in small groups no larger than three students. I expect each member to contribute their fair share and not expect one person to do all the work. Grades will reflect the amount of work contributed.

Plagiarism: The school has a very strict viewpoint on claiming credit for work that is not yours. All assignments not labeled as group projects/assignments are expected to be done by the individual student. Any similarity between your work and someone else's will result in the loss of credit by all involved parties.

Due Dates: Due to the nature of the work, most assignments will be due the day after they are assigned. A grace period of one week will be allowed for any late papers, with a letter grade deduction for

being late. The grace period will not be extended because of short illnesses. Work handed in after the grace period will lose half its point value. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER the last Monday of the nine-weeks.

DUE DATES ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AND I WILL NOT ALWAYS REMIND YOU OF LATE WORK.

The absence and tardy policies of the school will be strictly enforced. You are tardy if you are not visibly in the room, ready to begin, when the bell rings. Repetitive, excused tardies will be questioned. It will be your responsibility to find out and complete assignments you miss either by checking with the teacher or asking your peers. Do not interrupt class to ask me about late assignments. Grace period will not be extended. Tests and quizzes will be made up during study halls or after school. If you miss only the day of the test, you will take it the day you return unless we start a new chapter. If you miss only the review day, you are expected to take the test with the class.

I expect you to come to class prepared to work. That means with paper, for notes and pop quizzes, something to write with, and a folder/notebook.

I can not adequately stress how important it is to keep up with this class. Let me know if you need some extra help and we will arrange a time to meet. I prefer to stay late after school rather than come in a little early. The one thing I am not is a mind reader so communication is essential.

I expect a really good year!

NOTE: There is no food or drink allowed in my classroom. I am not opposed to gum, as long as it is chewed quietly and remains in your mouth. Neither am I opposed to hard candy that you can stick in your mouth and leave it there (NO sucker sticks showing!). I will not allow anything else.

Reminder: Members of this class are expected to carry the credit into 9th grade but this is conditional. Your parents have to agree to your receiving credit AND I would expect you to carry a C average or better for both semesters.

09/10

Mr Stearns' Ten Commandments

1. Thou shalt obey the rules of the school with respect to teacher and each other.
2. Thou shall keep your hands to yourself
3. Thou shall not interrupt the teacher or a classmate.
4. Thou shall not talk while the teacher is teaching.
5. Thou shall not apply chemicals to thy body. It won't fall apart before you leave the class.
6. Thou shall refrain from yelling out the window or waving to your friends as they are running to class.
7. Thou shall keep your gum in your mouth and chew quietly.
8. Thou shall remain in your seat until the bell rings.
9. Thou shall obey the rules of the laboratory.
10. Thou shall tuck in your shirt.

Restroom privileges are just that, a privilege and not a right. Those who abuse this privilege will be restricted. I will not allow you to leave during tests or quizzes.

School policy dictates that the class remains together during fire and tornado drills. Attendance will be taken.

Physical Science Syllabus
8th Grade

Text: Physical Science; by Charles William McLaughlin, PhD, Marilyn Thompson, EdD, and Dinah Zike; Copyright 2005 by McGraw-Hill, Columbus, Ohio

Topics (Units) Covered:

1. Energy and Motion
2. Electricity and Energy
3. Energy on the Move
4. The Nature of Matter
5. Diversity of Matter
6. Interactions of Matter

Class projects will be used to support these topics.

Students will be expected to read chapters and take notes from information discussed in class. See sections on grading policy.

Additional help is provided by the publisher at gpscience.com.