

Physical Science Syllabus

Instructor

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Office Hours: I am at school from 3:30 am until at least 3:30 pm every day. If these times don't work, contact me and I will work something out for you.

Where: Room A207

Course Description

Physical science is an introductory, two trimester science course with chemistry, physics and earth science concepts embedded throughout the course. The course is designed to be lab-based, which means learning results from student activities. **PARTICIPATION** is a **MUST!!!** This course is also intended to provide students a more structured and systematic method of viewing the world and the information around them.

Required Materials

Bring the following items to class every day:

- a pen or pencil (preferably both)
- loose leaf paper
- a calculator (this is especially useful during Physical Science A)
- a 3-ring binder (1.5 - 2 inch) for your daily work. You will need this every day for class. (I have plenty of binders that I am willing to share with you.)

Topics

Physical Science A

- The Nature of Science
- Physics
- Engineering

Physical Science B

- Matter
- The Periodic Table
- Energy
- The Universe

Grading

Item	Percentage of Final Grade
Tests/ Quizzes	50
Lab Work	15
Honors Project	25
District Final Exam	10

What can you expect from me?

- I will always do my best to help you to learn the material.
- I will enjoy having you in my class.
- I will never lecture to you for the entire class period.
- I will do my best to be fair to everyone, but I will also try to do what is right in each circumstance.
- I will bring unbridled enthusiasm to class.

Classroom Expectations (a.k.a. "What I Expect from You")

- Treat each other, the teacher and everything in the room with respect.
- Be on time and be prepared for class. If an assignment is due, have it ready to turn in. If your pencil needs sharpening, do it right away. I want to make the most of our time together.
- Participate! Participate! Participate! This is the biggest key to how well you do in this class (and in life). I expect you to give your full attention to what we are doing in class (this means I won't allow you to work on assignments for other classes during our class).
- Be safe in the lab. If you can't be safe in the lab area, you can't do the labs and that makes it very hard to pass a lab course. Any removals from lab, or class, mean zero points for the day.
- Be organized. Keep your supplies, notebook, homework, etc. in good shape.

The Three-Ring Binder

Every student needs a three-ring binder for class. **This is the most important thing for you if you want to do well in class.** EVERYTHING that we do in class gets put into the three-ring binder. Here's how you make the most out of your three-ring binder (and this class, too):

- Bring your binder to class every day.
- Put your new daily work in your binder right after the previous day's work.
- Take your binder home and finish any work that you don't get done in class.
- Read through your binder (from the beginning of the unit up to where we left off that day) **at least** two times a week.
- I post the answers to the lessons that we do in class on my web site. Correct your work and ask me questions about things that you don't understand.

Re-tests

I allow students to re-take tests in order to earn a better grade. **Students who don't pass a test MUST re-take it.** Here are the rules:

- Re-takes take place outside of class time.
- All work for the unit must be complete, corrected and in order in the three-ring binder, BEFORE a student can re-test.
- Re-takes take place within a one week of the original test.

Late or Missing Assignments

- Assignments are due at the beginning of class on their assigned due date.
- It is the student's responsibility to obtain the assignments he or she has missed for an excused absence. Ask a classmate, or the teacher, about what you missed. The class web page will have the assignments posted daily.
- If you are absent, you may turn in work upon your return to school.

Electronics

Let's face it - cell phones are a BIG part of our everyday life. They are also a BIG part in distracting us from what we should be doing. When you come to class, I expect your cell phone to be put away - not on your desk or in your pocket, but put away in your backpack (ear buds are removed and stored, too). Cell phones, when they aren't being distractions, can be incredibly powerful tools in a science classroom and we will use them frequently in class.

It is not an exaggeration to say that cell phones are the biggest problem that we deal with at school. Many teachers have students turn in their cell phones the second that they walk in the door and then they give them back at the end of class. I don't do that because I feel that, as your teacher, I need to teach you how to responsibly use your cell phone. To help with that, if you have your phone out when you shouldn't, you will turn it in for the hour (I have one of those pouch things hanging up in the room).

Homework for Parents/Guardians:

I need you to register your student for my class. To do this, go to my web page, scroll down to the "**Student Registration**" section and click on the on the survey. Enter the requested information. I will make a distribution list of all of my families and use it to send out class news and updates. **Please do this by Friday, September 6th**. Here is the address for my web page:

<https://www.ahschools.us/Page/10616>

SPECIAL NOTE: Please make sure to do your homework. It is worth 5 points to your child (and so much more than that to me). Thanks!

Homework for Everyone **(also known as "Quality Family Time"):**

While you are at my page, look around and get yourself familiar with it. Access the textbook on-line to make sure that it works for you. Check out the links for the STEM Fair page and for the LibGuide for the Honors Project. On the left side of the page you will see links to my Physical Science homepage (where you will find useful tools and information) and the link to the first unit that we will be doing - The Nature of Science. Click on this link to see the resources for the unit. When we do more units I will open up the links to them. For Honors Physical Science students, you will also see a link to the Honors page. This is where you will find everything that has to do with your Honors Project.

Here is a special challenge for you - find, and watch, the "Brad the Toaster" video that is on one of my pages.

SUPER IMPORTANT TASK THAT I NEED YOU TO DO RIGHT AWAY:

Please log into Synergy and make a recording of your name (this can be done by either the student or the parent). Please record the version of your name that you go by (i.e. if your name is "Michael" and you go by "Mike", then please record "Mike").

HONORS PROJECT INFORMATION

What is the Honors Project?

The Honors Project is what makes this class an Honors class. You are probably the most familiar with this as a Science Fair Project. You will research an area of science that interests you, generate a question within that area, design and run an experiment to answer the question and then share your findings at the District Science Fair and/or the Regional Science Fair. The Honors Project is science at its highest, most authentic level. You will develop research, critical thinking and problem-solving skills that you never realized you had.

Do I need anything special for the Honors Project?

Yes. Here is what you will need to start things off:

1. A separate three-ring binder (a 2" one should be fine) for you Honor's Project work. **This is called your PROTOCOL BOOK.** Please keep this at home.
2. Please make careful note of the dates for the various Science Fairs. You will need to present your project at the District and/or the Regional Science Fair. The Fair dates are listed below - **please reserve at least one of these dates now.** **NOTE: Only the Regional Science Fair can send projects on to the State Science Fair.**

NOTE FOR Trimester 3 Students: While you can try to get your project done in time for the Regional Science Fair, you are not required to do that. We will have a mini- Fair of our own at school in the spring.

Fair	Date	Location
District STEM Fair	February 8 th	Champlin Park High School
Regional Science Fair	February 22 nd	St. Cloud State University
State Science Fair	TBD	Earl Brown Heritage Center

Last, but not least...

At Champlin Park High School we celebrate our differences and recognize the benefits of a diverse student body. For this reason we must take a stand against offensive language and hate speech. Racially offensive and/or homophobic language as well as any other derogatory slur towards a specific group has no place in our school or this classroom. We will document and report language that is hateful and hurtful and leads to feelings of being ostracized (not accepted) from the Champlin Park family.