

Honors Physical Science Syllabus

DESCRIPTION: This course will introduce you to the basics of physical science – chemistry and physics. We will focus on the domains of physical science as set forth by the Georgia Department of Education, which can be found at www.doe.kas.ga.us. At the completion of the course, you will have a broad knowledge base of chemistry and physical science. There will be an End of Course Test at the completion of the semester that will count 20% of the final grade.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. (1) 1” three-ring binder with separator sheets
2. loose-leaf college rule notebook paper
3. pens, pencils, and colored pencils
4. other materials will be needed for projects during the semester

NOTEBOOKS

Each student will keep an organized Physical Science notebook. This notebook should be used only for science – no other subject. All study guides and assignments can then be hole-punched and added to the appropriate section. Paper folders do not hold up and are not large enough to hold all of the work. This binder will serve as a study guide for the EOCT.

HOMEWORK

All homework is due at the beginning of class on the day it is assigned. HW should be completed before entering the class. No time will be given to complete homework on the day the work is due. The homework grades are part of your daily average.

ASSIGNMENTS

All class assignments are designed to help students master the Georgia Standards for Physical Science. Class assignments may include labs, written assignments, quizzes, team assignments and projects. Students will also be expected to read content related material per Georgia Standards.

QUIZZES

Quizzes will be given daily to assess mastery of the standards and as a corrective tool to determine what types of activities or assignments are needed to master the standard. Quizzes are graded as part of the average and are sometimes used just for remediation. Quiz formats vary and can include vocabulary quizzes, reading quizzes, video quizzes, and written assignments.

UNIT TESTS

Unit tests are intended to assess the level of competence each student has gained from each unit. Test format may include multiple choice, fill-in-the blank, true/false, and essay questions. Tests are written based upon the standards given at the beginning of each unit.

EOCT

The End-Of-Course Test will be given at the end of the semester. This is a cumulative test that will count as 20% of the semester grade. A science notebook must be kept in class in order to adequately study for the EOCT. The notebook will consist of notes, review, and other materials that will be helpful in studying for the EOCT. Not taking the EOCT will result in No Credit (NC) for the class.

MAKE-UP WORK

All make-up work is the responsibility of the student and must be completed in accordance with the board policy. Please see Classroom Procedures for the process of obtaining make-up work. Please remember that more than 7 unexcused absences results in No Credit (NC) for the class.

EXTRA HELP

I will provide tutoring after school from 3:15 – 3:45 by appointment only. I will also provide study sessions on the mornings of unit tests.

GRADING SCALE:

1st nine weeks grade 40%
2nd nine weeks grade 40%
End of Course Test (EOCT) 20%

RHS GRADING

A = 90 - 100
B = 80 - 89
C = 74 - 79
D = 70 - 73
F = 0 – 69

I use a point system for grades. All unit tests and culminating assignments are worth 100 points each. Other assignments such as journals, labs, projects, homework, quizzes, etc will be assigned a point value based on its academic value.

Parent Notification

Parents will be notified at least four times a semester in the form of progress grades at the 4 ½ weeks and nine week grading periods. Additional notification will be on a student by student basis. Please expect these notifications of progress from the student because they will not be mailed home. Please use your Parent Portal account often to check the status of your student. Please feel free to contact me at any time about progress.

In addition to strong math skills, honors physical science students must be prepared to:

1. Demonstrate a strong work ethic, scholarly behavior, and a positive attitude.
2. Think scientifically – Analyze scientific research, write procedures to labs, draw conclusions, make predictions, pose hypotheses, and defend results.
3. Complete project based assessments – Each unit has at least one lab/research project with a written report.
4. Apply knowledge – Take information from one context, relate it to another, and defend the application
5. Rise to challenges – Build a model boat, conduct independent experiments, and much more.
6. Students will read the equivalent of 1 science book or 2 science articles per semester in class.