

Student Information and Responsibilities for Eighth Grade Physical Science

Teacher: Mr. Roberts
Textbook: Glencoe Physical Science

Web address: www.thesciencedesk.com

Purpose of Course: The eighth grade course is a laboratory oriented approach to the study of physical science. The topics covered include:

- 1. The Scientific Method in Problem Solving, Variables, and Observations
- 2. Physics of everyday processes with applications to machines,
- 3. Energy and its various types, and how it can be changed to other types of energy,
- 4. Chemistry and Lab Skills development with emphasis on measurement, characteristic properties of substances, solubility, and various ways to separate different types of mixtures.

The students do laboratory work and collect their own information. Mathematics is an important part of the course. The students collect numerical data and learn to organize and interpret this data. The students generally like this hands-on approach to the study of science, but parents must realize that this approach differs from the way other subjects are taught.

Grading System: Quarterly grades are determined from Quizzes and Tests 50%, Labs 30%, and Homework 20%.

1. Quizzes/Tests: Quizzes are usually given about every week and a half and cover recent material gone over in class during that time as well as the lab work done in class. Tests may also be given at the conclusion of a unit. Throughout the year there are review classes after school for students desiring extra help, especially before a quiz or test. There will be two retests allowed during the first marking period, one during the second marking period and none thereafter. A retest is to be taken outside of the regular class time and must be taken within three school days of receiving the original test. There are no test corrections to raise a test grade. There are no extra credit projects allowed to raise a grade. Therefore, students must fully prepare for each and every test or quiz.

2. Laboratory work: Most days students will be doing lab work in class. Each individual student's lab work is graded, although students usually work with other students as lab partners. Since lab work is the main focus of the course, it is difficult to send this type of work home when a student is absent. If a student has a lesson during a class when a lab activity is scheduled, they are expected to participate in the lab activity. Each day that a lab report is turned in late, results in 20 percent being subtracted from the lab grade.

3. Homework: Most of the time the work the students bring home will be a lab they are working on. Other times though, there will be selected questions from various sources that will be assigned or a worksheet will be given. The questions are gone over in class the following day and many times the students will see similar questions on tests or quizzes. It is imperative that students read the text pages assigned for homework. Too often, students are just starting their assignment when they enter class, and then they wonder why they don't understand it. Being rushed doesn't help the thinking process. This is why homework is meant to be done at home, and prior to class, hence the name Homework.

Homework that is turned in after the teacher collects it, results in a 50 % loss of credit! So even if the assignment is done, but you forget to turn it in on time, or forget it at home will still cost you 50% . Homework turned in later than 5 days is a zero!

To get full credit back for a late homework assignment, the student must stay after school until the end of the tenth period, and do this within 2 days of the assignment due date. This does not apply to late lab assignments!

Copying someone else's homework accomplishes two things:

- 1-You don't get the practice that will help you improve!
- 2-You get a grade of zero for the assignment.

If a student is absent for any period of time it is their responsibility to obtain and complete the missed work in the same number of days that they were absent for.

The Effect of Turning In Late Work

- If a homework assignment is not turned in, it will cause the overall marking period grade to drop about 1–2 points for each assignment missed.
- Missing labs will cause a grade drop of 3–5 points. So work must be turned in complete and on time to do well !
- Not taking a quiz or test will cause a grade drop of 7-10 points.
- * Missing work has a greater impact on a students 5-week grade than it does on the grade at the end of the marking period.

Notebook: Since the information the students collect from labs forms the basis of the course, it is vital that they keep a complete and organized notebook with sections for notes (including any material handed out in class), labs and homework. They should put the date on all papers they receive, as well as on all assignments. This one step, when done regularly, will make organizing their notebook much easier. Some handouts must be kept in their notebook all year and this will be checked periodically!

- Once a marking period, students are expected to hand in for a grade, a packet consisting of selected papers that they have to save for the entire school year. Go to [Saved Handouts List](#)

Assignments: All work turned in by students must be neat in appearance.

Do not fold, crumple, draw on , or use any assignment as a message page to communicate with other students, unless otherwise indicated.

!! If the assignment isn't neatly done, you will need to redo it in order to get credit !!

Required Student Materials for Every Day:

- 1-Notebook (preferably a three-ring binder) with lined paper
- 2-Pen
- 3- #2 pencil with eraser
- 4-Basic, four function calculator

These items are needed all year long! If you lose an item, you need to replace it ASAP !

The textbook you receive should remain at home and not in your locker. There is a classroom set of textbooks that will be used if the need arises in class.

Student Behavior Expectations:

- Be on time to class, ready to learn, with all materials needed for class
- Think first, then speak
- Respect everyone else's opinions
- No put downs of anyone, yourself included
- Let someone else finish speaking before commenting
- Raise your hand to comment or ask a question

A copy of this course information page will be placed in the front of the student notebook and it will remain there for the entire year for easy reference.

I verify that I and my child have gone over the course requirements and we understand it is my child's obligation to follow them and we will work together with the teacher to meet them.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Parent/Guardian email address _____

Student Signature _____