

8th Grade Physical Science Course Syllabus

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Room # 126

LEARNING MODEL STATEMENT

Regardless of the learning model in which students are scheduled, Traditional Model, Buffalo eLearning, or VCS Online, students are required to meet all expectations of the course guidelines.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- Students will be greeted at the door and a small portion of hand sanitizer will be dispensed onto the palms of their hands upon entry to the classroom.
- Students will wear face coverings whenever social distancing or the use of partitions is unable to be honored in the classroom.
- Students should come to class prepared with personal classroom materials in order to limit the sharing of supplies.
- Students are expected to thoroughly wash their hands for 20 seconds or more before exiting the restroom and returning to the classroom.
- Students will only be allowed to use hallway water fountains to refill personal water bottles.
- When necessary, students are expected to practice coughing and sneezing etiquette.
- Students are expected to transition quickly between classes and will be required to wear face coverings.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR THIS COURSE

- Students will wear face coverings whenever social distancing or the use of partitions is unable to be honored in the classroom. Since students are sitting at tables, students will be required to wear masks at all times unless partitions are up.
- Lab supplies will not be shared amongst students and will be sanitized between classes. Students will rotate the actual completion of experiments within their lab group.
- Students will not be allowed to move around the classroom without permission. When this is allowed, masks are required.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goals of this course are

- To provide opportunities to study the concepts of matter, energy, and forces of energy through exploratory investigations, activities, and applications.
- To provide each student with the opportunity to develop skills of observation, critical thinking, responsibility, and cooperative learning.
- To challenge students to develop critical and creative thinking and analyze real-world situations.

TEXTBOOK/CURRICULUM - Pearson Elevate

1st Nine Weeks – Nature of Science, Energy, and Force & Motion

2nd Nine Weeks – Thermal Energy, Waves & Electromagnetic Spectrum, Sound & Light Energy, and Inquiry Challenge

3rd Nine Weeks – Intro. to Matter, States of Matter, and Atoms & Periodic Table

4th Nine Weeks – Chemical Reactions, FCAT Review (Earth/Space and Life Science), and Polymers

ASSESSMENT

Students' grades will be determined by using the following categories and percentages:

Practice	--	30%
Performance (Mastery)	--	70%

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

Students' grades will be determined by the following:

A. Practice Includes:

- Participation , labs taken for completion grades, and some homework/classwork

B. Mastery Includes:

- Tests, quizzes, science fair project, lesson reviews, performance labs, class projects, and some homework/classwork

Extra Credit – online chapter practice tests, Quizlet practice activities and games, optional science project, and additional challenge activities.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/RULES

1. Be on time and where you are supposed to be. (Prompt)
2. Be prepared and on task. (Prepared)
3. Ask for what you need. (Positive)
4. Strive for excellence and always do your best. (Productive)
5. Respect the rights, responsibility, and property of others. (Polite)

You are responsible for reading and following the student handbook as well as classroom procedures and classroom rules. When you make a choice that violates classroom and/or school rules, disciplinary consequences will be implemented. Please refer to the following documents found on the tvcs.org website under “middle school”, “Forms/Documents/Newsletters”:

- VCMS Student Handbook
- 20-21 Classroom Behavior Management Plan

Buffalo eLearning Students

All Buffalo eLearning students must be logged in for the entire period of each class to be counted as present per the VCS Reopening Plan on page 17. Students will sign in and attend school remotely, following a standard school schedule and bell times. Attendance will be taken daily in each course and will be recorded in Skyward each period. All assignments will be monitored for submission per the communicated due date.

VCMS Bell Schedule

- 1st period: 8-8:50
- 2nd period: 8:54-9:50
- 3rd period: 9:54-10:45
- 4th period: 10:49-11:40
- 5th period: 11:44-1:05 (including a 25-minute lunch period)
- 6th period: 1:09-2:00
- 7th period: 2:04-2:55

Buffalo eLearning students should follow the same classroom expectations as students in the traditional model. It is highly recommended that school uniform shirts be worn to support a proper learning environment.

“Students choosing not to participate in instruction and assignments in any of the three offered models will be directed to the following options: Homeschooling, returning to county/district school of residence, and/or retention,” per the VCS Reopening Plan, page 5.

VCS Online Students

Students will work on assignments during non-traditional hours and maintain contact with their teacher at least one time per week during the teacher’s office hours posted in the course Google Classroom.

PROCEDURES

Daily Required Materials:

- Charged Chromebook, Pen, pencil, highlighter, personal pack of colored pencils, science folder, textbook, earbuds, and a great attitude

Google Classroom/Email:

- Students will utilize Google Classroom for different activities per teacher request.
- All documents for the current chapter will be placed on the “Classwork” page by chapter
- **Student email must be accessed daily.**

Bell Ringer/Dismissal:

- Read and follow all instructions posted on the board/Google Classroom.
- Review upcoming due dates/test dates posted on board, on the teacher connection calendar, and posted as a document under that specific unit on the Google Classroom Classwork Page.
- Sharpen pencils
- Be in seat, working when bell rings

Make-up Work:

- All work due on the computer, is still due on the due date, even if absent. Online assignments are given multiple days to complete.
- Any work that was due on paper to be turned in while a student is absent, will be due the day the student returns.
- If a student misses a test, due to an absence, the student must be prepared to take the test on the day that they return to school. Please schedule a time with the teacher.
- Please check the teacher connection calendar for a list of days activities and assignments, as well as upcoming assignments and test dates.
- Please check Google Classroom Classwork page for any notes, documents, etc. under the current unit.

Late Work:

- Assignments that are one day late will receive up to 60% of the actual grade (based on accuracy, not completion)
- Assignments that are turned in after one day late, will not receive credit.
- ALL COMPUTER BASED ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE DUE ON THE ASSIGNED DUE DATE EVEN IF YOU ARE ABSENT. NO LATE CREDIT! (These assignments are always assigned with plenty of time to be completed in class or at home).

IMPORTANT DATES

- Please check the teacher connection page calendar on a regular basis for up to date assignments, classwork, homework, tests, and quizzes. Please make sure to check the calendar for the correct class period.

SCHOOL CLOSURE/VIRTUAL LEARNING

- In the case that traditional learning switches to virtual learning, it is absolutely necessary that students check their emails and each Google Classroom multiple times daily.
- Students are required to respond to emails sent by Mrs. Whittle regarding reminders, recommendations, etc. This will allow Mrs. Whittle to know that they are receiving the information.

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMUNICATION

I am available to any student or parent requesting additional assistance or needing additional information. If you choose to email me, please remember to put "Student" in the subject line so your email will reach me through the VCS web filter. If you prefer to contact me by phone, please call the school office and leave a message requesting me to return your phone call. If I need to contact you, I will first try to contact you through email unless you have indicated a preference for phone contact on the return form.

Syllabus for 8th Grade Physical Science

2020-2021

Instructor: Jennie Whittle

******* PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE BY MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020*******

I have read this syllabus and the 2020-2021 Classroom Behavior Management Plan. I understand the expectations communicated and the consequences that will be applied if I choose to fail to follow them.

Student's Signature

Date

Class Period

Student's Printed Name

Parent's Signature

Date

Parent's Printed Name

In order to make communication between home and school as smooth as possible, please provide both your email and telephone information below, and then indicate your preferred method of contact.

___ **Parent/Guardian Email Address:** _____

___ **Parent/Guardian Telephone Number(s):** _____

___ **I prefer an email**

___ **I prefer a phone call, and the best time to reach me is** _____

___ **Either method is fine**, and I have provided the information for both above

___ **Student Cell Phone Number(s):** _____

OPTIONAL...To be used in the case of school closures for reminders/questions regarding school work

(Return this page only)