

8th Grade Physical Science Honors

Course Syllabus

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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.
- To allow students to develop their own scientific investigation following ISEF (International Science & Engineering Fair) and the Florida State guidelines (science fair board project or powerpoint project).
- To receive high school credit, however, students must maintain a "C" or higher.

TEXTBOOK/CURRICULUM - Savvas Elevate & McGraw Hill (Honors Textbook)

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

2nd Nine Weeks – Thermal Energy, Waves & Electromagnetic Spectrum, Sound & Light Energy, Science Project, 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), Polymers, and Nuclear Energy

REQUIRED SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT - 1st Semester

All students in Physical Science Honors science classes are required to complete an independent science project. Students will have the choice to participate in our school science fair (GOLD Path) which allows more freedom to choose their topic or complete a Google Slides (GREEN Path) from a list of pre-selected topics. Project guides will be posted on Google Classroom.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A LARGE GRADED PROJECT AND WILL AFFECT YOUR GRADE DURING THE 1st AND 2nd NINE WEEKS. FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT WILL LOWER YOUR GRADE IN THIS CLASS.

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 , vocabulary, notes packets, mini labs, and some homework/classwork, lesson reviews, USA Test Prep performance tasks

B. Mastery Includes:

- Tests, quizzes, science fair project, performance labs, class projects, USA Test Prep Question sets, as well as some homework/classwork.

Extra Credit Opportunities– online chapter practice tests, online chapter flashcards, Quizlet practice activities and games, pass points, and additional challenge activities. Please note that students are highly encouraged to take advantage of extra credit opportunities. Additional extra credit will not be given.

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
- 23-24 Classroom Behavior Management Plan

CELL PHONE and SMART WATCH POLICY

Cell phones, smart watches and any other communication devices may not be used while on campus. If you feel your child must have one of these electronic devices, it must remain in their backpack, TURNED OFF while at school and during Extended Care. Texting and videotaping are **not permitted anytime** during the school day.

Students are not to call, text, or message their family members during the school day. If students need to reach a member of their family, they can use one of the phones in the main office. You can help us enforce this policy by not texting your children and calling or answering their calls during the day.

Students with a device visible and/or using a device anywhere at school will have their device taken for the remainder of the school day. The teacher who takes the phone or smart watch will turn it into

the main office for the parent to pick up, and the student will receive a consequence for their choice.

PROCEDURES

Daily Required Materials:

- Charged Chromebook, pen, pencil, highlighter, science folder, textbook, wired headphones, and a great attitude

Google Classroom/Email:

- Students will utilize Google Classroom for different activities per teacher request.
- Google Classroom will also have a daily agenda posted for students that are absent to be able to keep up with their work. They are expected to check this agenda if they are absent.
- **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: If absent...

- 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 Google Classroom Stream Page 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 PRE-ASSIGNED 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).

Extended Absences:

- Please check email daily and respond within 24 hours
- Please email teacher with completed work and to check in with an update
- Google Classroom must be checked daily
 - Classwork page will be organized by Unit
 - Under each unit will be a document with all requirements/due dates/test dates for that unit.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Please check the teacher connection page calendar/Google Classroom 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.

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. You may contact me at kyle.mahlan@tvcs.org or please visit our school website and my teacher connection page for important information at: <http://www.thevillagescharterschool.org/>.

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******* Please complete the Google Form to indicate that you have read,
and understand, the syllabus for this class.**