

Physical Science

Liberty Christian High School 2008-2009

Course Description:

In Physical Science students will be given an introduction to both Chemistry and Physics. In the Chemistry portion of the class, topics such as mass, density, volume, state changes, and basic atomic theory will be covered. In the Physics portion students will learn about energy and the various aspects of mechanics. Electricity, thermal energy, magnetism, and the electromagnetic spectrum are all covered in this exciting class.

A quick note about Physical Science:

Science can prove challenging and confusing for many students. I want to encourage you, however, by saying that many of the concepts are challenging only at first. Through repetition and practice the theorems, equations, and definitions become much easier. Each chapter builds upon the next and if you focus early on, each chapter will get easier. I will work with you through this process and please know that I am dedicated to your success.

Student materials needed for this class:

- Your Physical Science textbook
- Calculator – *all you need is a basic calculator. You do not need to purchase a graphing calculator for this class.*
- Lined notebook paper
- Pens, pencils
- Three ring binder to keep assignments in
- *Special materials may be needed for projects and project details will be given out when the project is assigned.*

Procedures and Grading Criteria for Physical Science

Procedures

Be Punctual – Class begins when you enter the classroom. If you are late, you will be marked tardy and will already be behind in your work for the day. Assignments are turned in at the beginning of class and your assignment may be considered late if you are tardy.

Be Prepared – You have a list of the materials that you are expected to bring to class each day. If you fail to bring the required items to class it may have an effect on your ability to complete an assignment. You will not be allowed to leave class to go and get items you failed to bring.

Be Respectful – You will be respectful at all times of other people, their property, and of the directions being given to you by myself or my TA. Purposefully insulting fellow students, vandalizing their or the school's property, and interrupting or disregarding my instructions will NOT be tolerated for any reason.

Grading and Assignments

Homework

Homework will be assigned weekly as determined by Mr. Pryor. The purpose of homework is not to burden you with time consuming activity for no reason. Homework will be assigned to help you master key concepts and terminology in preparation for quizzes. You will have class time to work on or begin homework assignments. Use that time wisely and you will never have that much homework in my class.

Homework is worth 15% of your overall grade for the class

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given weekly and may occur on any day of the week. You will be notified in advance of an upcoming quiz. The purpose of a quiz is to prepare you for the upcoming test and to ensure that you are gaining adequate mastery of the homework that has been assigned. Quizzes will range from 15-20 questions and will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, True/False, and short answer questions.

Quizzes are worth 20% of your overall grade for the class

Tests

Tests will be given at the end of each chapter or approximately every two weeks and will be given on Tuesday's or Wednesday's for Science and Friday's for Geometry. Tests will consist of a variety of question types that will test your mastery and knowledge of the concepts covered in the class. Question types include multiple choice, matching, true / false, essay, and fill in the blank.

*****This is very simple: If you do your homework, you will do well on the quizzes. If you do well on the quizzes, you will do well on the test. There is nothing sneaky or tricky about it. Your effort and attention in class and on the various assignments will greatly determine your success.**

Tests are worth 45% of your overall grade for the class.

Projects

Projects will be assigned once per quarter. The two projects per semester will be based on key concepts being studied at that time. Some projects will be done in groups and others will be done individually.

Projects are worth 5% of your overall grade for the class

Semester Final

You will have a semester final at the end of each semester that will test your overall comprehension of the terminology and concepts that have been covered in the class. There will be a brief period of review and prep for the semester final but if you suddenly wake to the reality that you have not been paying attention the entire semester and think you can cram it all in before the test, you will be very disappointed in the outcome.

The semester final is worth 15% of your overall grade in the class.

Here are the grading percentages again:

Homework	- 15%
Quizzes	- 20%
Tests	- 45%
Projects	- 5%
Sem. Final	- 15%

HERE IS THE KEY FOR DOING WELL IN
PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Please understand that I am passionate about YOUR success in my class. You have an A as you read this paper and it is my desire that you keep it that way. All you have to do is work hard and pay attention and you will do well.

A great majority of math and science is about building knowledge of concepts, one upon another. If you decide for a month that you really don't care and are not interested anymore, it will affect you for a long after you decide to rejoin the program. The concepts and ideas you miss are many times required in order to comprehend the next set of concepts and ideas. *You must avoid checking in and out at all costs.*

In the end, I want you to succeed and if you have any questions or concerns about anything, I will listen with an open mind and do my best to help you.

I have read and understand all of the classroom rules/expectations for Mr. Pryor's Physical Science Class.

Student's Name (print)

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

Parent's Contact Information:

What is your preferred means of contact? _____

Phone #

Alternate Phone # (please specify)

e-mail
