8th Grade Physical Science at CTEMS

STUDENT EXPECTATION GUIDE

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Students enrolled in Eighth Grade Science will gain a general introduction to a wide variety of topics including physics, chemistry, Earth Sciences, and some biology. We will experiment and investigate the chemical structure of matter, chemical reactions, biological chemistry, the structure and composition of planets and stars, the periodic table, density and buoyancy, motion and forces, among other topics. In addition to the content information, students will also gain experience in science lab techniques, the scientific method, lab safety, student teaching, and working together as an interdependent team to accomplish goals that would not be possible as individuals. Students will be responsible for maintaining one bound (lab) and one three-ring (class) science notebook. Homework is posted on the website and in class. Weekly homework is given on Mondays and is due without exception (except for excused absences) the following Monday.

**MAIN OBJECTIVES:** Students will:

a. Continue to develop skills in organizing, studying, working as a team and note-taking.

b. Discover and integrate basic scientific ideas and concepts.

c. Experience science as a process of change and learn to approach problems in different ways.

d. Build a personal sense of initiative, empowerment and responsibility.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. You are responsible for your own learning.

Pay close attention during class.

Listen carefully to all instructions the first time.

Ask questions when you do not understand.

Review notes, assignments, etc. nightly (study)

2. Come to class ready to work.

Know the material from the previous days (all learning is connected)

Bring all your supplies (spiral notebook, three-ring notebook, pen(cil)).

3. Keep mentally focused on the day's learning; give your best effort.

Make sure all work is your own or that of your interdependent team.

Make corrections or add information when work is reviewed in class.

4. Turn in all work when it is due; unexcused late work will not be accepted.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

Students are expected to participate in all class activities. Experience indicates that those who actively participate are far more successful than those who do not. Students will be given many opportunities to teach in this class.

**TESTING:**

To measure a student's understanding, knowledge, skills, and abilities a variety of assessment tools will be used, and may include, traditional and non-traditional tests, class effort, presentations, projects, labs & assignments.

**MAKE-UPS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

All make-up work, other than tests, is to be completed upon your return **in the same amount of days as your excused absence**. Test make up day is every Thursday after school, regardless of when the student returns. Work turned in late for any other reason will not be accepted for credit (ie unexcused absences, “I just forgot”, etc). Work turned in nameless will receive “0” credit. It is **your** responsibility to make up late work.

**GRADING POLICY:**

Grades are based on points received divided by total points possible. Points for assignment categories will have the following relative percentage weights: tests & quizzes, 40%; labs & projects, 30%; class assignments & worksheets, 20%; book work & homework, 10%. Students must have earned a minimum class performance of 70.00% to qualify for extra credit, which will not exceed 5.00% of the total points possible.

93.0%-100.0% = A 90.0%-92.99% = A- 87.0%-89.99% = B+ 83.0%-86.99% = B

80.0%-82.99% = B- 77.0%-79.99% = C+ 73.0%-76.99% = C 70.0%-72.99% = C-

67.0%-69.99% = D+ 63.0%-66.99% = D 60.0%-62.99% = D- 0%-59.99% = F ---OVER--🡪

**EXPECTATIONS, BEHAVIOR, PROCEDURES, RULES & CONSEQUENCES:**

Descent, respectable, and responsible behavior is expected at all times. Students who choose to vary from these expectations can expect the consequences outlined below.

**Class Procedures (or what to do when you...**)

1) Enter the room--Calmly and orderly, pup's, sharpen pencils

2) When the bell rings--Pen(cil)s out, at and in your seat, working quietly on daily review

3) You need to sharpen your pencil while I'm talking--Raise your hand quietly, with pencil showing, I'll either nod yes or no

4) You have a question--Silently raise your index finger, I will respond

5) You need to go to the restroom--Peace sign silently, I will respond yea or nea.

6) You finish work early--Make a journal entry, see me, teach others, organize your binder, etc

7) I need the attention of the class--I will raise my hand or say "stop working and look up here."

8) Dismissal of class--remain in or at your seat until I (not the bell) dismiss you

**Class Rules (or how I expect you to do the procedures above...)**

1) When I am talking, listen carefully without talking to your neighbors.

2) Follow directions the first time they are given.

3) If you have something to say, raise your hand.

4) Stay in your seat unless you have permission to do otherwise.

5) Bring all books and materials to class every day.

6) Be in your seat and working independently on the daily review when the bell rings.

7) Visible **cell phones or i-Pods** will be confiscated and turned in to the office for parent pick-up.

**Class Consequences (or what will happen if you choose to sidestep a rule above...)**

1) Silent warning

2) Verbal warning

3) Meeting with teacher after class

4) Parent contacted

5) New seating arrangement

6) Loss of points

7) Lunch detention

8) Trip to the principal's office

9) Parent, student, principal, teacher, counselor conference

**REQUIRED MATERIALS;**

The following materials are required in class for your success;

1) 2-inch three-ring binder

2) Binder paper & section dividers;

a) Tests & quizzes

b) Class notes

c) Worksheets & assignments

d) Bookwork & Homework

e) Movie worksheets

3) Sewn & bound laboratory research notebook (to remain in class)

5) Slim 3-hole punch to be kept in 3-ring binder.

6) Glue stick, Colored Pen(cils), metric ruler, & scissors.

7) Copy of “California Physical Science” textbook and Reading & Note Taking Guide (provided)

**ADDITIONAL**

Throughout the year I will maintain a materials wish list for our science program. This will usually include common household materials but may also include other harder-to-find materials too that may be gathering dust in attics & garages or even requests for assistance in building science demonstration devices for parents and students who want to be more involved and who are handy. Materials lists for requests will be sent home and maintained on the 7/8 science website. From time to time, chemicals from an approved list of low toxicity substances will be used in conducting experiments in this science class. If your child has a history of reactions to any chemical or substance, please advise the teacher at once. By signing below we (student and parent) agree that we have read and understand this information sheet.

Parent’s/Guardian Signature Date

Student’s Signature Date