Physical Science

Length of Course: One year  Credit: ½ per Semester
Teacher: James Parkinson  Conference Time: 12:35 – 1:30

I. Course Description: In eighth grade physical science, students will investigate the essential concepts of the physical universe. They will explore the areas of chemical and physical changes, heat, electricity, and forces and motion through hands-on laboratory investigations. In addition to these concepts, students will also be examining biological interactions in several ecosystems. Students will learn to use the tools of science as well as the process which scientists use to uncover the mysteries of our physical world.

II. Course Objectives: This course covers MICLIMB Benchmarks for Middle and High School science. These benchmarks are essential understandings needed to succeed in Michigan Standardized Testing. The topics covered in this course are:
- Physical and Chemical Changes
- Ecology
- Basic Electricity
- Nuclear Chemistry
- Force and Motion


IV. Course Website: http://www.msu.edu/~parkin20

V. Methods of Evaluation: A. Each semester grade will be calculated using the following format:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Quarter:</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Quarter:</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam:</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each quarter grade will be calculated by Earned Points / Total Points

B. The interpretation for grading shall be as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Outstanding progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Above average progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Average progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Lowest acceptable progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**HOW TO SUCCEED IN PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

1. **SUPPLIES**
   A. **LAB NOTEBOOK.** Any three ring binder will do. It **must** be separate from other notebooks as I will sometimes collect it overnight. All of your notes go into the notebook, and it is your chief study tool. Notebooks will be collected each Wednesday and must have separate sections for class notes and completed work (must be kept in order)
   B. **PENCIL OR PEN**
   C. **CALCULATOR.** Any basic calculator with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division will do.

2. **HOMEWORK AND STUDYING**
   A. **HOMEWORK.** We don’t have homework every night. When we do, it is **VERY** important. Do it.
   B. **STUDYING.** Even though we don’t have homework every night, I expect you to spend about **15 minutes a night** going over what we do each day. Every lesson builds on previous lessons. If you forget yesterday, you won’t do well today.

3. **TESTS AND QUIZZES.**
   A. **TESTS.** Tests can be short-answer, essay, multiple choice, true-false, or an mix. You must know your stuff. (100pts)
   B. **QUIZZES.** Each Wednesday, there will be a 5-10 question short answer quiz to test recent learning. (20-25 pts).

4. **ASK QUESTIONS AND BE COMFORTABLE WITH GUESSING.**
   A. **ASK QUESTIONS.** If you don’t understand a question, direction, or anything, **ASK!!!** If you want to ask about something related to what we are studying, **ASK!!!** I am trained in biology, chemistry, earth science, ecology, and physics. If I don’t know an answer, I can tell you where to find it. As long as it pertains to class, **ANY** questions you have are worth my time, both before and after school. If you do not understand, **ASK!!!**
   B. **BE COMFORTABLE GUESSING.** Many times in the class, you will be asked to make hypotheses (educated guesses). Sometimes your hypothesis will be more guess than education. That’s fine. Think about the question or problem, and try your best. Please note: by test time, you shouldn’t be guessing!!

5. **SHOW UP.**
   A. We do many laboratory activities and demonstrations. It is very hard to understand the material when you miss class.
   B. When you are absent, it is **YOUR** job to find out what you missed. I am available from 7:00 AM on before school, at lunch (by appointment), and after school until 3:00 every day. Experimental data and answers may be obtained from a friend, but you are responsible for the right answers (see ME).

Students, this is your first homework assignment (worth 10 pts). Give these two pages to your parent or guardian, have them read and sign this sheet, sign the sheet yourself, and return this portion of the sheet for 10 EASY points. Parents and guardians, if you have any questions, please send them with your student. In addition, over the course of the year I will be sending out e-mail about current events in class. Please include your e-mail address under your signature

Parent/Guardian Signature:    Student Signature (I need to read this!):