

## PHYSICS SCIENCE COURSE EXPECTATIONS

**Description:** Ninth grade physical science is a hands on, laboratory course that serves as an introduction to chemistry and physics. This is a required course. Students learn basic laboratory techniques, data collection, measuring, and graphing skills while studying such topics as chemistry of soils and fertilizers, chemistry of foods, chemistry of textiles, Periodic Table, thermal energy, radioactivity and nuclear power, sound and waves, light and optics, and electricity and magnetism. TI graphics calculator is used extensively for data collection and display.

### I. Grades: Quarter

- A. Grades are based on a total points system (roughly 3000 per quarter) that includes points for:
  - 1. Lab reports
  - 2. Worksheets
  - 3. Homework
  - 4. Tests
  - 5. Enrichment activities (can be up to 10% of grade)
  - 6. Attendance and promptness (one point for each day present, a second point if on time)
- B. No paper, no points; no name = no paper.
- C. Grades are generally posted daily to Infinite Campus. It is your responsibility to check periodically to see how you are doing, if you have anything missing, etc.
- D. Letter grades are assigned by Infinite Campus based on the Chinook curve.
- E. Infinite Campus actually keeps grades as percentages and averages them as numbers in computing the semester grade

### II. Grades: Semester

- A. There WILL be a comprehensive semester test each semester.
- B. Semester test counts 10% of semester mark with each quarter mark counting 45%
- C. Semester test does NOT affect quarter marks.
- D. Quarter marks and semester test mark are averaged by Infinite Campus as percentages so how high or low your mark is will be important.
- E. Infinite Campus assigns the letter grades as per Chinook curve.
- F. You will be told what things to keep to help you study for the semester test. Get yourself a ring notebook, envelope, or folder of some sort to keep these needed papers.

### III. Make up work, absences

- A. If you are absent on a day when your class has an activity that is pretty impossible to “make up”
  - 1. When the teacher checks the attendance register in Infinite Campus, if your absence is EXCUSED, you will see an N in your gradebook for that day; this means that the activity could not be made up but it did not count either for or against you.
  - 2. When the teacher checks the attendance register in Infinite Campus, if your absence is UNEXCUSED, then you will see a 0 in your gradebook for that day. Getting all absences EXCUSED is YOUR responsibility.

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- B. For tests and the assignments that CAN be made up, you will have two school days for each day absent to get these things finished and handed in.
  - C. Late work:
    - 1. NO CREDIT for late homework.
    - 2. Lab reports/worksheets are accepted for full credit up to one week.
    - 3. Lab reports/worksheets lose 10% per week after the first week.
  - D. Getting out of class for school trips, personal trips, etc.--see teacher BEFORE LEAVING to get assignments.
  - E. Truancy, school ordered suspensions, jail time--teacher considers these unexcused and you receive a grade of zero for each activity missed.
- IV. Tardiness: all instances of being late to class will be reported to the office. Standard school disciplinary measures as established by administration will apply.
- V. General procedures for a laboratory oriented class
- A. Most of the rules of conduct in a science class can be summarized by the following guidelines
    - 1. You should not do anything that will hurt yourself
    - 2. You should not do anything that will hurt anyone else
    - 3. You should not do anything that will damage expensive equipment
    - 4. You should follow all safety instructions, whether printed or verbal
    - 5. You should engage brain before manipulating equipment or chemicals.
  - B. You will be working on most "in class" projects with one lab partner
    - 1. Lab partners will be assigned on a random basis by the instructor.
    - 2. Partners will be changed at the beginning of each new unit.
    - 3. Partners WORK at their assigned stations.
    - 4. Partners do NOT
      - a. Wander around the lab looking for "free" answers
      - b. Wander around giving free advice to others
      - c. Copy another groups lab results instead of recording their own data
      - d. Visit with other lab groups not in the immediate vicinity.
  - C. Electronic calculators may be used any time you have an exercise with numbers in it, whether homework, lab report, or test--you don't even have to ask. You will actually need a TI-82 (might be able to find a good used one) TI-83+, or TI-84 graphics calculator for some of the activities. If purchasing a calculator, be certain that it is one of the models mentioned. Other brands and models will not be satisfactory.
  - D. Homework
    - 1. Generally you have a short homework four nights a week, none over weekends.
    - 2. Homework assignments are posted on the board behind the instructor and will usually be in the form of a duplicated handout.
    - 3. Homework is due at the BEGINNING of the class on the day after it is assigned. It is due upon returning to class if you are absent on the regular due date.
    - 4. NO CREDIT for late homework.
    - 5. Most of the time you will have to do these assignments AT HOME or in STUDY Hall because you will need class time for labs and related activities.

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- E. Lab/worksheet hand in
1. If you finish a lab or worksheet during the class time, hand it in!
  2. If you don't finish a day's worksheet or lab report on the day we are doing that activity in class, finish it so you can hand it in at the BEGINNING of the next class period when the teacher calls for papers.
  3. Library books and work for other courses are not allowed unless the physical science for the day is on the teacher's desk.

### VI. Expected behavior

- A. Responsible young adult attitude is expected at all times.
1. Clowning around and showing off are potentially dangerous in lab.
  2. Unauthorized experiments may damage expensive equipment, and you pay for anything you break.
- B. If involved in behavior considered unsafe by the instructor or in unauthorized experiments that may damage equipment, self, or others:
1. First offense: sit out one day of lab; zero for activity missed
  2. Second offense: sit out one week of lab; zero for all activities missed
  3. Third offense: permanent removal from lab privileges. Instructor will recommend to administrator and your parents that you be removed from this class to study hall or or another class until you are more mature.
- C. OSHA regulations require that you observe the following standards of dress in the lab.
1. You must wear aprons when working in the lab stations.
  2. For some experiments (teacher will announce), you must wear safety goggles or prescription glasses. Sun glasses are NOT a substitute.
  3. You must wear shoes.
  4. If you do not choose to follow the above regulations of dress, you must immediately take your seat in the classroom section of the room and take a zero as a grade for the day's lab activities.
- D. The instructor, in the interest of safety, has established the following local regulations relating relation to dress for the lab
1. No hats or caps are allowed in the classroom
  2. No outerwear jackets are allowed in the classroom
  3. No music devices, cell phones, or other distracting "toys" are allowed in classroom
  4. Should you bring any of the aforementioned items to class, you will be required to return them to your locker before being admitted. If you fail to get back before the tardy bell rings, you will be counted tardy.
- E. Fire drill procedure
1. Shut off gas and/or water if using them for a lab.
  2. Exit, keeping to RIGHT side of hallway, down the stairs, and out the south entrance door.
  3. Continue walking up sidewalk towards west (Lutheran Church); assemble as a group on corner for head count.

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- F. Care of lab equipment and lab locker
1. You have to pay for all equipment that may be broken by you.
    - a. You pay in the main office.
    - b. You pay when you check out of school.
  2. You must return equipment--clean and ready for the next group--to the proper area of your lab station at the end of the period. If you require "maid service" from the teacher or from someone in another class, points will be deducted from your lab grade for the day.

### VII. Cheating

- A. For most labs, your lab data SHOULD match your assigned partner for that activity; if it matches someone else, teacher will question as to where and how you secured those data.
- B. If you get caught copying another person's paper, both papers will be taken away by the teacher. You and your friend both receive zero for the assignment. The office will be informed of the incident. You may face further disciplinary measures from the office.
- C. You get caught cheating on a test--you get a grade of zero for that test; incident reported to office where you may face further disciplinary measures. You lose all bonus points for attendance and promptness for quarter.