Physical Science Course Syllabus

Bill Allen

I am available before school, after school, and during my prep period. Check the current semester schedule for my prep period, as it changes for 2nd semester. Most mornings, I am here by 7:45 AM and am always here until 4 PM.

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Welcome to Physical Science at Central Lyon High School!!!  This introductory course gives a general overview of the study of properties of matter, atomic structure, motion, forces, and energy.  We will cover the essential topics to give you a firm foundation for classes you may take later and for the chemistry and physics you experience in everyday life.  The most important thing I can do for you is teach you learning skills, NOT STUFF.  The course will attempt to give you a deeper understanding of the science processes that go on around you.  This class will include oral work, written work, group projects, outside assignments, quizzes, laboratory experiences and tests.  This course offers a foundation for the rest of the science classes you will take throughout your high school career.

**Assumptions and Expectations of the teacher:**

 I assume that each of you is capable of speaking and writing in complete, grammatically correct sentences.  I also assume you understand the basic difference between right and wrong and how to be courteous towards others.  I assume you are all tremendously talented is some way or another and that you can think through somewhat complex questions.

 I expect that you will treat your other classmates and I with respect and dignity, just as I will do with you.  I expect that if you do not understand something, or if you are having problems with me personally, that you will come to me and let me help you.  I expect that you will try hard to complete all class work, keep up with all reading assignments, homework and that you will study for tests and quizzes. I expect that you will spend **at least** **15 minutes per day/ night** looking over your notes, reading ahead and doing homework.  It is crucial that the student prepare themselves just as the teacher will.

Keys to Success:

Responsibility         You are responsible for the amount you learn and your grade in this class.  It is my responsibility to teach you in the best way possible.

Motivation               You are the one who must be motivated to come every day and learn as much as possible.  A car without any gas is the same as a rock.  A student without motivation is that same rock.  I don’t move rocks.  I am motivated every day to come in and do my best as a teacher.

Effort                       You will achieve and learn directly related to your effort.  Homework is not a punishment but an invitation to practice a skill.  Lab write-ups allow you to ruminate on real life applications of scientific principles.  I will put forth a great deal of effort on my part, you should follow suit.

What YOU need for this class:

A writing utensil

Some kind of notebook for you to take notes in

A folder to keep papers in.   Papers do not get stored in your book.

A signed (by you and your parent(s) or guardian) safety contract and receipt of syllabus sheet.

A scientific calculator.

**Grading:**

You will be graded on lab work, homework, math problems, quizzes, and tests. A rough idea of how the course breaks down below:

10% Class Participation – prepared for class, ready for work, attentive.

15% Labs- lab quizzes, lab reports and conduct in lab

25% Daily Grade- Book work, worksheets, homework, and quizzes.

50% Tests

**Make Up Work**

**If a student has to miss class, make up work will be turned in on time per the guidelines in the student handbook.**

**Late Assignments**

**Late homework will be docked 10% per day for three days. Any assignments more than 3 days late will not receive any credit, and a zero will be entered into the gradebook. Notice a 10% docking for a one day late assignment would mean, if the assignment was originally 100%, the assignment no longer qualified as an A. I will not continually remind students that they owe me homework. It is your responsibility to find out what you need and get it turned in by the due date if you are absent.**

**Tentative Course Content**

**Chapter 1 Science Skills Chapter 2 Properties of Matter**

**Chapter 3 States of Matter Chapter 4 Atomic Structure**

**Chapter 5 The Periodic Table Chapter 6 Chemical Bonds**

**Chapter 7 Chemical Reactions Chapter 11 Motion**

**Chapter 12 Forces and Motion Chapter 13 Forces in Fluids**

**Chapter 14 Work, Power, and Machines Chapter 15 Energy**

**Chapter 16 Thermal Energy and Heat Chapter 17 Mechanical Waves and Sound**

**Chapter 19 Optics – time permitting Chapter 20 Electricity – time permitting**

**General Rules**

Each student is expected to adhere to the rules laid out in the Student Handbook.

You will come prepared to class every day.  You must be in your seat and ready to work at the bell or you will be considered tardy. Tardies result in detention.

You will leave all food, drinks, and candy out of the classroom.

If you attempt to sleep in class you will stand for the duration of the class.  A seat is a privilege, not a right.

You will maintain respect for each person and item in the class.  This means not mistreating others, not speaking while anyone else is speaking, keeping the classroom neat, not writing on tables or chairs and not breaking or misusing any materials in the classroom.

You will ask questions when you do not understand.  A question that is on one person’s mind is probably on others as well.

You will take responsibility for your own achievement in the class.  You are not “given” a grade by the teacher.  You earn a grade and the teacher simply records it.  Success is a reward for those who try hard consistently and pay attention to their academic responsibilities.

Academic Fraud of any kind will not be tolerated!!!  This means cheating on tests, copying other’s work, giving access to work to another student so they may copy or talking during tests.  If you choose to cheat, you will receive a zero for the assignment and your parent(s) will be contacted .  The academic misconduct policy of this school will be followed in this class.  Both teachers and students can have bad days.  You will need to be aware of those times as will I and be patient at those times.

You are invited to meet with the teacher at any time, other than class instructional time, to discuss grades, classroom behavior, or any questions you may have.

All requests for accommodations, for this course or any school event, are welcomed from the students and parents.

Any student who received failing grades during this course is urged to discuss this with the teacher.

What if I break a rule?:

First time:  Warning

Second time: Conference with student and/or parent and personal detention with the teacher the next day either before or after school as the teacher chooses.

Third time:  Referral to the office or after school detention.

Of course, if you do something major you’re going straight to the office.

Please sign below, have a parent sign, and return to me by August 27 along with lab safety sheet.

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Student Parent or Guardian