

8th Grade Physical Science Syllabus

Saint Mark Lutheran School

Introduction

Welcome to 8th Grade Physical Science! In this course, YOU will be challenged to:

- ★ Reach beyond your own expectations
- ★ Take risks
- ★ Accept failure
- ★ Keep trying
- ★ Think critically

I am here to support you in any way I can. My hope is for you to love science and become a lifelong learner of it.

Together, we will become scientists!

Course Description

This physical science course explores the physical universe and covers topics about: motion, potential and kinetic energy, the nature of matter and atoms, and how chemicals combine. This course is aligned with the Eighth Grade Next Generation Science Standards (N.G.S.S.)

Our main course textbook is Prentice Hall Science Explorer: Physical Science. This course will focus on the following units and its subtopics. Within each unit and its respective subtopics, you will be assigned a wide variety of tasks such as: hands-on experiments, scientific analysis writing, phenomena inquiries and investigations and note-taking skills.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Unit 1: Chemical Building Blocks	Unit 2: Motion, Forces and Energy	Unit 3: Sound and Light	Unit 5: Electricity and Magnetism
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Matter● Solids, Liquids and Gasses● Elements and the Periodic Table● Atoms and Bonding● Chemical Reactions● Acids, Bases and Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Motion● Forces● Forces in Fluids● Work and Machines● Thermal Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Waves● Sound● Electromagnetic Spectrum● Light	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Magnetism● Electricity● Using Electricity and Magnetism● Electronics

Materials

Most, if not all of the materials for projects and lab work will be provided. However, if there is a need for additional materials a notice will be sent out ahead of time. Basic materials for this course are listed below:

- Prentice Hall Science Explorer: Physical Science Textbook (please bring to class daily)
- Science notebook for notes (will stay in class)
- Investigative Journal (will stay in class)
- Mechanical and/or sharpened #2 pencils
- Highlighter (any color)
- Colored pencils and/or different colored ballpoint/gel pens (optional, but highly recommended)
- Glue stick, glue bottle or transparent scotch tape (optional, but highly recommended)

Behavior and Conduct

Behavior and conduct expectations for this course can be summed up in two words: **Respect** and **Effort**

Show respect for your teachers, peers, the school and yourself. Give your best effort in all that you do. If you do these two things you will be on your way to success in my class (and in life!)

Consequences as well as incentives for behavior will be handled according to the Saint Mark Middle School Ready to Learn (RTL) plan.

Please also refer to the Parent/Student handbook for general rules and regulations regarding conduct and behavior as well as proper wear for school uniforms.

Grading

Each activity that is assigned is graded on a 100 point scale. However, each activity is also weighted differently. The weighted breakdown is as follows:

➤ Homework 10% (Chapter worksheets or packets and any unfinished work as necessary)	➤ Class lab assignments 15% (individual/group hands-on activities such as experiments and small projects)
➤ Doodle Notes 15% (Whole group instruction/lecture notes)	➤ Investigation Notebook 15% (Scientific Writing and Analysis)
➤ Quizzes 15% (open note assessments; consists of paper/pen quizzes and/or practical application)	➤ Unit Assessments 15% (closed note assessments; consists of paper/pen assessments and/or practical application)
➤ Final Quarter Project 15% (One major individual project per quarter)	

For example, an 80% on the quarter project will have a greater effect on your final grade than a 100% on your doodle notes.

Monitor your grades on Gradelink as it will be updated weekly. If you feel there is an error with your grades, I encourage you to advocate for yourself and come talk to me.

Homework and Classwork

Homework will be given Monday–Thursday. Late homework will only be accepted in the event of an absence or of a prior arrangement with me. No exceptions.

All other late work will be given a ten point deduction every day it is not turned in. Extensions can be granted with no penalty, however, it is your responsibility to make prior arrangements with me.

It is also your responsibility to collect and complete any missed assignments during your absence. Please ask for any clarification or assistance if you need help with them.

Aside from the daily homework, no other work from class will be allowed to be taken home. This includes all projects. All projects will be completed in class.

Quizzes and Assessments

You will do a test review in class as well as be given a study guide to complete prior to any quizzes or assessments. It is your responsibility to complete the study guide to the best of your ability and schedule a time for assistance, if needed. Please try to be in class during test review days as there is no way to make up a review day.

You may use the study guide and/or notes for quizzes but not for unit assessments, unless otherwise noted.

Test corrections on the original assessment will be allowed for any one that would like to improve their grade. However, you will be required to provide an analytical reflection on your assessment. There are no retakes of any assessments. No exceptions.

Extra Credit

Extra credit work will not be assigned for this course so it is imperative that you turn in all assigned work on time and to the best of your ability. No exceptions.



Contact Mrs. Mac

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