**8th Grade Physical Science**

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| Class and Contact Information |

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|  | **Miss Ullman** |  | [jullman@alcsny.org](mailto:jullman@alcsny.org) |
|  | Room 265 |  | www.alcsny.org |
|  | (716) 375-6600 ext. 2265 |  | In-School Office Hours: 7th-9th period |

**Course Overview:**

8th Grade Physical Science will expand on the skills and knowledge learned in 6th and 7th grades. This course will focus primarily on the following: Physics, Chemistry, Earth’s Water, Astronomy and a Grade 5-8 review for the NYSED Grade 8 Intermediate Level-Science Test. This test usually occurs in June. Content knowledge is applied using the scientific method to solve problems, design, and constructing models. Units are done with a hands-on approach when possible through lab exercises and other hands-on activities.

**Tentitive Order of New Units (subject to change) :**

* Earth’s Water
* Chemical Interactions
* Astronomy
* Light and Waves
* Electricity and Magnetism

**Basic Classroom Rules:**

**Punctuality:** Please be on time and try to get to the classroom before the bell rings so we can start class in a timely manner. Be ready to learn as soon as the bell rings. If you are tardy, you will be warned for being late to class. If tardy multiple times, you may receive a disciplinary referral.

**Cell phones:** The use of phones are prohibited in the classroom per school rules. Cell phones must be in your lockers and not on your person. Please refer to the Student- Parent Handbook on our school website for details.

**Bathrooms:** Sign out on the sign out sheet what time you leave and what time you returned. Only a max of two people may go to the restroom. Make sure you also take the pass with you and bring it back.

**Departure:** The teacher dismisses the students, not the bell. Do not pack up early and do not line up by the door. It is rude to your teacher.

**Classroom Culture**: Please be respectful of yourself, your classmates and your teacher. This creates the healthy learning environment your teacher strives for. It’s also basic human decency to treat others with the same respect you deserve in return. If this rule is broken, there will first be a warning. If broken repeatedly, you may receive a disciplinary referral.

**In-School Office Hours:**

I will offer in-school office hours during my study halls so if a student does need help during the school day in their study hall. They are always welcome to come to my room to receive help. If a student is unable to see me that day and still needs guidance, they can reach me by email located at the top of the syllabus or by teams.

**Grading:**

Students will be evaluated using a **variety of assessment techniques**. All of these types are listed below:

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| **Types of Assessments** | |
| **Homework** | Assignments will be given weekly to practice the new material. Usually they will be assigned on Monday and due on Friday. These assignments are available on teams and are **25% of final grade** |
| **Quizzes** | Review or vocabulary quizzes will be given throughout each unit to check for student understanding and will come in a variety of formats. **These will be 20% of the final grade**. |
| **Participation** | Class participation is important for class discussions and establishing a positive class environment. Participation comes in many different forms, from answering questions to helping classmates answer questions. **This will be 15% of the final grade.** |
| **Tests** | Unit tests will be given at the end of each major topic. Each test will have a section in vocabulary, a section of multiple-choice questions, and a section of short responses. **This will be 40% of the final grade** |
| **Classwork** | This will be given frequently. Labs, group activities, and worksheets are considered classwork. Students will be given time in class to finish and stay in the classroom. **This will be in the same category as participation.** |

**Late Work:**

* Late work will be tolerated up to a week late. After a week, five points will be deducted every day it is late. For example: If a student turns in a homework assignment a week and two days late, even if all answers are correct, the student can only receive up to a 90.
* It is the student's responsibility to check with their teacher to make sure they have everything turned in. I will remind students periodically, but it is still their responsibility to make sure late work is turned in.

**Quizzes and Tests:**

* Quizzes and Tests can be made up within a week of when it was given. It is the student’s responsibility to let me know when they will make up tests or quizzes. I will be happy to help reschedule their exam.
* If the quiz or test is not made up within a week, it will be a zero.
* Students may retake an exam if it is an 84 or below. They will need to retake it within three days of the test being handed back for review then given back to me.

**Homework Passes:**

Homework passes can be used for one homework assignment. Unused passes at the end of the quarter can turn into points that can boost up a low homework score. These will not be given out frequently, so use these wisely!

**Absences From Class:**

If a student misses a class, it is **their own responsibility** to check the online homework calendar for that day, download any class or homework documents, complete them and turn them into me.

**Obtaining Course Materials:** The majority of the assignments will be available in paper and on Teams. Teams will be used as a resource tool and a turn in tool if students would like to turn in assignments. Labs will be paper only. In Teams, I will post assignments and due dates. Class notes, test guides, and other study resources will be available on Teams.

**Lab Safety:**

Just like any other science class, there are lab safety procedures to follow. Below are some general safety guidelines to follow in all science labs. Below that is electrical safety and lab emergency procedures. Lab safety is taken very seriously.

**General Safety Guidelines:**

1) Wear appropriate clothing for lab. No flip flops, open-toed shoes, no hanging jewelry etc.

2) If you have long hair, tie it back.

3) Wear appropriate eye protection in the lab

4) No eating or drinking in the lab

5) No horseplay in the lab

6) Do not perform unauthorized experiments

7) Do not sit on the lab benches

8) Report anything in the lab that seems unusual, such as broken or cracked lab equipment

9) Always follow your lab procedures detailed in your lab hand out

10) Always listen to your instructor when going over safety procedures

11) Do not use lab equipment like toys

12) Always exercise caution when working with lab equipment

13) Read directions and labels carefully

14) Keep your workspace clean and make sure to put away things in their proper spot after you are done using it

**Electric Safety Guidelines:**

1) Remove all conductive or metallic jewelry before working with electricity

2) Prevent trip and fall hazards by placing wires away from places where students or the instructor may be walking

3) When using batteries, always inspect them first for cracks or leaking. Let the instructor know if anything seems strange with the batteries

4) Inspect your circuit before you plug in your electrical source. Ask your instructor before you plug in your circuit. We want to prevent short circuits or unsafe circuits.

**Emergency procedures:**

1) In case of a fire, know where the fire blanket, fire extinguisher, and the emergency gas shut off switch is and know how to use them

2) Know the locations of all the exits in the lab and building

3) Know the location of the phone for emergencies

4) In case of a chemical spill or chemical related incident, know where the eye wash, emergency shower, and first aid kit is and how to use them

5) Follow teacher’s instructions and emergency plan

6) Always let the teacher know when a spill, leak, or other incidents happen. The teacher will clean up the mess and defuse the situation.

**If a student broke any of the guidelines, I would use the following consequences when rules are broken:**

1st time: verbal warning

2nd time: seat change in the lab and another verbal warning

3rd time: Student taken out of the lab exercise and will need to retake the lab exercise another time

4th time: Call home to parent or guardian

5th time: Disciplinary referral

After the 5th time, there will be further administrative action

Please keep this syllabus to reference in the future. This syllabus has very useful information. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, hereby read, understand, and will follow the guidelines and emergency procedures that were given to me. I also agree to abide by these safety guidelines and to follow all other written and verbal instructions given in class. If I break these guidelines, I know there will be consequences. If one or more of these rules are broken, I may be removed from the lab and will need to complete the lab another time. I also understand all of the rules that are laid out in the syllabus.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian contact information: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please send this slip back to your teacher as soon as possible. Thank you! 😊