

8th Grade Physical Science Course Expectations

Mr. Bridges

Course Description:

This course is designed to give students an introduction to the physical aspect of science. This includes many of the more important ideas covered later in Chemistry and Geology which will be taught later in high school. We will cover topics such as Charles Law, Cell theory, Geology of the earth and chemical reactions while working on developing scientific thought processes and integrating science into other aspects of daily life. We will achieve this through small group and class discussion, labs, and numerous hands-on activities inside and outside the classroom. By the end of this course, students should have a solid base in geology and chemistry, as well as a thorough understanding of correct lab procedure and safety, experimentation, and how science relates to the world around us.

Supplies:

- #2 pencils for labs and drawings
 - A 3-ring binder, filled with loose-leaf paper
 - Colored pencils (**optional**)
- Calculator (**optional – a simple calculator will be provided for use in-class, if you prefer to use a graphing calculator, bring your own**)

Rules for Student Behavior:

All policies outlined in the Student Handbook will be observed. In addition to these, students will abide by the following:

- Be in class, seated, and quietly working when the bell rings or you will be considered tardy
- Bring all materials to class. If you need to go back to your locker, you will be marked tardy.
- Respect other students and don't disrupt their learning.
- Obey all lab safety rules.
- When doing group work, there will be no talking between table groups unless specified

Classroom Procedures:

- When you come in to the classroom, take all required materials out of your backpack and return it to your locker
- Once you sit down, immediately begin working quietly on the daily warm-up.
- Students may sharpen pencils at any time during class as long as it is one at a time.
- All chairs must be pushed in before students leave the classroom – the bell doesn't dismiss you, I DO!

Late Work Policy: Work turned in after a deadline – **which is considered to be the beginning of your class period on a due date, not the end of the day**

– is considered late and will be assessed a penalty of 10% per day past the due date based on the following criteria:

- Illness or excused emergency absence: No penalty. Work is due the day you return to class.

- Late work due to unexcused absences or suspensions (in or out of school) will be penalized 10% per day. If you are assigned in-school suspension, you should pick up work at the beginning of the day from me. Students with multiple-day out of school suspension should arrange for someone to pick up and turn in missed assignments for you in your absence.

- Homework that has been gone over in class will not be accepted late. In all cases, (except extended medical absences), missed class activities (e.g. labs, exams, class work) must be made up within 1 week. Beyond this point, 10 points a day will be lost. **Homework must be turned in the day you return to class, there is no one week grace period.** Note that lab work cannot always be made up and alternate assignments may be made to replace the missed learning activity. Many of our labs require expensive kits and materials that may not be available beyond the class period. Please make every effort to be in class on days that lab activities are scheduled.

Laboratory Work:

We will be doing approximately one laboratory exercise per week. Most labs will require some form of post-lab write-up due the class after the lab is completed. *If a student is caught copying or disobeying the lab rules they will be removed from the lab immediately and will receive a zero for that particular lab.*

Honor Code:

8th grade Science has instituted an honor code to promote integrity. In keeping with this, students will be required to write and sign the following honor pledge on every assignment:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized aid on this assignment."

Evaluation and Grading:

The final grade you earn each quarter will be based on the total number of points you accumulate in each of the following categories:

Tests	30%
Projects	20%
Lab/ class work	15%
Quizzes	15%
Homework	20%

Extra Help:

Extra help is available after school by appointment. I am usually at school every afternoon until 4:00 p.m. Please provide your own transportation.

Contacting Me:

If you wish to contact me, you can reach me either by phone at (704) 482-0343, or by e-mail at bebridges@[clevelandcountyschools.org](mailto:bebridges@clevelandcountyschools.org). I will usually respond to questions and concerns within 24 hours.

Acknowledgement:

Please take this course expectation sheet home and share this information with your parents. Your first homework assignment is to have your parents acknowledge reading these course expectations by signing below.

I have read the course expectations above. I understand that if I have any questions or concerns, I can contact Mr. Bridges by phone at (704) 482-0343, or by e-mail at bebridges@clevelandcountyschools.org

Student Name (print)
Date

Student Signature

Parent Name (print)
Date

Parent Signature