

Physical Science Syllabus
Mr. McBrayer
East Rutherford High School
Fall Semester 2015

About Physical Science

Physical Science is a one credit science class that will be offered every day for eighty five (85) minutes during the entire semester. Physical Science is a course that combines both chemistry and physics. The first half of the semester will be dedicated to the study of chemistry while the second half will be dedicated to the study of physics. As the student will learn, there is no well defined line that separates chemistry and physics since both disciplines overlap. To be successful in this course, one will need to:

1. Be prepared to spend some time studying outside of class.
2. Organize and maintain a work portfolio in a three ring binder (optional).
3. Stay current with class work and homework. Each day's work builds on the previous day's work.
4. Ask questions, create solutions to problems and be able to defend them.
5. To better incorporate mathematical operations into scientific studies.

Goals for Physical Science

- To help students improve skills in expressing themselves orally and in writing.
- To help students develop skills in synthesis, interpretation, analysis, and deductive reasoning.
- To improve students ability to work independently and co-operatively.
- To help students understand the relevance and importance of Physical Science in their daily lives.

Materials Required for Daily Work

- Three ring binder to maintain notes, homework, reports and handouts.
- Several sharpened pencils and paper. (I give a lot of notes.)
- Textbook assigned to the student.

Main Topics Covered in Environmental Earth Science

The main divisions of Physical Science (chemistry and physics) will incorporate more mathematics into both sciences than many students have used in previous science courses. We will work to improve skills in the use of the metric system, S.I. units, and related calculations. Topics such as elementary chemistry, chemical equations, chemical reactions, phase changes, atomic structure, the Periodic Table, forces, motion, thermodynamics, electricity and magnetism, simple machines, mechanical and electromagnetic waves, energy and many other topics will be incorporated into our course of study as well.

Evaluation and Grading Calculations

The grading system for this course is based on the following scale:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = below 60

I = Incomplete

WP = Withdrew Passing

WF = Withdrew Failing

Grades for the semester will be calculated on the following points system:

Homework/Classwork.....20% (six weeks)

Quizzes.....20% (six weeks)

Unit Tests..... 60% (six weeks)

Final Exam (prepared by NCDPI).....20% of final grade

Student Records

I will maintain a detailed record of each student's performance, both on computer and in a grade book. These records will be made available to parents, guardians and students upon request. Additionally, it will be each student's responsibility to maintain the hard copies of their work in their portfolio binders.

Help and Make-Up Work Sessions

Help and make-up work sessions will be held before and after school. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule these sessions in advance with Mr. McBrayer. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange any transportation to or from school that is needed for these sessions. Students will be allowed to make up work for EXCUSED ABSENCES ONLY. A day to complete make-up work for each day missed (up to 5 days) will be allowed. After this, the grade will be recorded as a 0. For absences greater than two days, arrangements should be made to pick up assignments from me at the school.

General Classroom Rules:

- Follow directions the first time they are given.
- Be in your assigned seat ready to work when the tardy bell rings.
- No sleeping in class.
- Bring all required materials to class every day.
- Sit in your assigned seat.
- Absolutely no eating or drinking in the classroom.
- The display or use of cell phones in the classroom will result in the cell phone and the student being sent for the office for appropriate disciplinary action.
- No behavior that will disrupt teaching or learning.
- Students are allowed 2 tardies per six week grading period. If a third tardy is recorded, the student will be referred to the office for disciplinary action.
- Any severe offense that interrupts teaching and learning will result in immediate referral to an administrator for disciplinary action.

About the Instructor

My name is Matt McBrayer and I have been teaching for fourteen years, the last thirteen of which have been at East Rutherford High School. I hold a bachelors degree in chemistry from Western Carolina University and a masters degree in natural science from The University of South Carolina.

Typically I make myself available to students early in the mornings before school Monday through Friday. I am in my room by 6:45 am daily. It is best if students let me know a day in advance if they need to make up time or work in the morning. I also make myself available for students in the afternoon from 3:15 pm and 4:15 pm in the afternoon Monday through Thursday unless I have after school commitments. Again, it is best if they let me know a day in advance if they need assistance.

My planning period is second period. If parents need to contact me this is the best time between 9:50 am and 11:00 am.