Omaha North High Magnet School
Honors Physical Science
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Mrs. Prusha
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Office Phone Number: 557-3400
Plan Periods: A3 and B4
Office/Classroom Rm 240

Course Description
Physical Science is an inquiry-based course designed to expose students to selected concepts in chemistry, physics, earth, and space science. Topics include matter, energy, forces and motion, Earth in space, and Earth structures and processes. This course provides a foundation for other science courses.

Major Units of Study
Unit 1: Matter on Earth
Unit 2: Earth’s Energy Systems
Unit 3: Universal Forces
Unit 4: Earth’s Physics

Class Rules and Expectations

Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Accountable

- Rules and guidelines set forth in the student handbook will be followed in this class. Any student who distracts other students or the instructor and interferes with the learning environment should expect consequences.
- **IDs:** You must have your ID on and visible in order to enter the classroom. If you do not have an ID you will be issued a temporary ID.
- **Attendance:** Being in class, on time, is important for student success. Anyone entering the classroom after the bell has stopped ringing is tardy. If you are more than 10 minutes tardy you will be considered skipping and automatically be issued a truancy referral. If you have a pass, it must have a time and teacher’s signature on it, and Mrs. Prusha will follow up with that teacher.
- **Food and Drink:** This is a science classroom, therefore no food or drink is allowed. If you bring food, you will be asked to throw it away. This rule is also on the safety contract that you must sign and return.
- **Electronic Devices:** Please keep all cell phones and music/headphones away for the entirety of the class period. STREAM computers are expected to be used only in the matter instructed by Mrs. Prusha. Further or misuse of these items will result in consequences.
- **Attention:** Students will be focused on the teacher during lecture and peers during discussions. Students will refocus attention on teacher when prompted in a timely manner.

Texts

Assessment
- Course grades will be determined by planned assessments such as tests, quizzes, labs and projects.
- Major tests and/or writing projects are to be expected at the end of each major unit outlined above.
- **State Testing:** To address state requirements, all 11th grade students will complete the ACT.
- **District Testing:** The NWEA/MAP test will be administered as a predictive test. The NWEA/MAP test will be administered in high school to 9th and 10th grade students.
There are three types of coursework

- **Summative (65% of the final grade)** – Unit tests or projects used to determine mastery of content or skill. Summative assignments are graded for accuracy.

- **Formative (35% of the final grade)** – Minor assignments such as Labs, Quizzes, Book Assignments or other assignments that deserve to be graded. Formative assignments are graded for accuracy and descriptive feedback is provided.

- **Practice** – Brief assignments done at the beginning of learning to gain initial content. Practice assignments are not generally graded for accuracy (descriptive feedback will be provided in class) and are not a part of the grade. Teachers may keep track of practice work to check for completion and students could also track their practice work.

Weighting Assignments (Using a Multiplier)

When entering grades in the grade book, teachers may assign greater weight to some assignments than others. For example, the final exam may impact a student’s summative grade more than a unit test. Teachers will have the option to use the multiplier to weigh both formative and summative assessments to a maximum of 4. If a weight of 2 or more is applied to an assessment, this information will be communicated to students at the time the assessment is announced.

At the end of the grading period, scores are converted to a letter grade using this grading scale.

\[
\begin{align*}
A &= 3.26 – 4.00 \\
B &= 2.51 – 3.25 \\
C &= 1.76 – 2.50 \\
D &= 1.01 - 1.75 \\
F &= 0.00 – 1.00
\end{align*}
\]

Redoing/Revising Student Coursework*

1. Students are responsible for completing all coursework and assessments as assigned.
2. Students may be allowed redos and revisions of coursework for full credit during that unit of study based upon the teacher’s professional judgment and evidence collected throughout the unit. Scores for student work after retaking, revising or redoing will not be averaged with the first attempt at coursework or assessment but will replace the original student score.
3. Students are expected to complete assessments when given to the class, or if a student was justifiably absent, at a time designated by the teacher.
4. Redoing, retaking or revising will be done at teacher discretion in consultation with the student and parent(s). Teachers may schedule students before, during, or after school to address needed areas of improvement if not convenient during class. The time and location for redoing, retaking or revising will be done at the teacher’s discretion in consultation with the student and parent(s).

Late Coursework*

Students are expected to complete coursework on time. Late coursework may be accepted for full credit until the end of the unit based on the teacher’s professional judgment and evidence collected throughout the unit. Accepted late work will not result in a reduction in grade and the M (Missing) will be replaced with the score earned by the student. The teacher or school may make exceptions depending upon student circumstances (such as prolonged absences due to illness).

I have read and I understand the requirements and expectations of this class.

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<tr>
<th>Student Signature</th>
<th>Parent Signature</th>
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