Omaha North High STEM Magnet School  
Physical Science  
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Teal  
E-mail: david.teal@ops.org  
Office Phone Number: 402-557-3400  
Plan Period: A5  
Office/Classroom: Room 244  
Best times to contact: 3:10 - 4:40 pm

Course Description
Physical Science engages students in the three dimensions (science practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts) of learning as identified by the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science. The topics include: energy, structure & properties of matter, chemical reactions, space systems, weather & climate, forces & interactions, Earth’s systems, and waves & electromagnetic radiation. This course meets the district requirement for Physical Science.

Major Units of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Units of Study</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Unit 1: Universal Forces</th>
<th>Forces &amp; Interactions, Space Systems, Energy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester</td>
<td>Unit 2:</td>
<td>Space Chemistry</td>
<td>Chemical Reactions, Properties of Matter, Space Systems, Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester</td>
<td>Unit 3:</td>
<td>Earth’s Physics</td>
<td>Waves &amp; EM Radiation, Forces &amp; Interactions, Earth’s Systems, Energy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Expectations
- Complete coursework, both in and out of class, in a timely fashion.
- Participate during in-class discussion and cooperative learning opportunities.
- Complete formal lab write-ups.
- Create technology based projects and presentations.

Class Rules and Expectations  
Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible
- Rules and guidelines set forth in the student handbook will be followed in this class. Any student who distracts other students or the instructor interferes with the learning environment and should expect consequences.
- Attendance: Being in class, on time, is important for student success. Anyone entering the classroom after the bell has stopped ringing is tardy. Being more than 10 minutes late will result in a truancy (skipping) referral unless student has an excusal pass with a time, date, and teacher/administrator signature.
- Electronic Devices: Electronic devices can and will be confiscated for the duration of the class period at the discretion of Mr. Teal if they are distracting to either Mr. Teal, themselves, or other students. Failure to hand over device to Mr. Teal will result in student being sent to administrator to confiscate phone, likely for the entire day.
- Food & Drink: Only chewing gum & clear water in a clear container is allowed to be consumed in class.

Safety Expectations
Physical Science is a lab-based course with safety as an essential component. The safety guidelines support and encourage an investigative approach and laboratory instruction, while at the same time assisting in the development of a safe learning environment. Students will follow the Omaha Public Schools district guidelines on safety, which are published in the science safety contract. Students will be provided a copy of the guidelines. The students, parents and/or guardians are expected to read the guidelines and sign and return the signature portion of the contract. The student will not be allowed to participate in the lab activities until the signed contract is returned.

Texts

Assessments
- Major tests and/or writing projects are to be expected at the end of each major unit outlined above.
- District Testing: The NWEA/MAP test will be administered as a predictive test. The NWEA/MAP test will be administered in high school only to 9th and 10th grade students

OPS Secondary Grading Practices
All coursework and assessments are judged based on the level of student learning from “failing” (0) to “advanced” (4). This course will provide multiple opportunities to achieve at the “proficient” (3) to “advanced” (4) levels. Students are evaluated based on a proficiency scale or project rubric. Proficiency scales are located on the district’s Curriculum Instruction Support (CIS) website in the “Secondary Grading Brochure 2017 pdf”. Google these quoted words to find it.
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.

There are three types of coursework
- **Summative** (65% of the final grade) – assessments/assignments are major end of learning unit tests or projects used to determine mastery of content or skill (examples: a research paper, an oral report with a power point, major unit test, and science fair project). Summative assignments are graded for accuracy.

- **Formative** (35% of the final grade) – assessments/assignments occur during learning to inform and improve instruction. They are minor assignments (e.g., a three paragraph essay, written responses to guiding questions over an assigned reading, completion of a comparison contrast matrix). Formative assignments are graded for accuracy and descriptive feedback is provided. Teachers will require students to redo work that is not of high quality to ensure rigor and high expectations. The students’ score on a formative assessment that was redone will be their final score.

- **Practice** – assignments are brief and done at the beginning of learning to gain initial content (e.g., student responses on whiteboards, a valid sampling of math problems, keyboarding exercises, and diagramming sentences, checking and recording resting heart rate).

To maintain alignment of coursework to content standards, which is a key best practice for standards-based grading, teachers will utilize a standardized naming convention for each of the standards within a course. The content standard will be marked on each assignment entered into Infinite Campus (District Grading Program) using all capital letters followed by a colon. After the colon will be the title of the coursework.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>3.26 – 4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>2.51 – 3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1.76 – 2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.01 – 1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.00 – 1.00</td>
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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.

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