

**Physical Science
2020-2021 School Year**

Teacher: Mr. Prekrel

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Phone: 410-943-4511

Ext. 1533

Room Number: A203

Planning Period: 4th period

Course Description:

In this course students build on the middle school ideas and skills and allow high school students to explain more in-depth phenomena central not only to the physical sciences, but to life and earth and space sciences as well. In physical science there is a focus on several scientific practices. These include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanations; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. Students are also expected to demonstrate understanding of several engineering practices, including design and evaluation.

Required Materials:

The required materials needed for this class are: A spiral notebook with a folder and plastic cover for interactive notebook (less likely to come apart throughout the year), a spiral or composition notebook for warm-ups, a folder for keeping assignments and writing instruments (pencil or black/blue pen).

Recommended: Colored pens, Post-its, and highlighter

Units of Study:

Unit 1: Earth Science

Unit 2: Chemistry

Unit 3: Physics

Grading Policy:

The term grades will be based on the following categories and weight:

- a. 60% - Tests and Quizzes
- b. 40% - Class work, homework, and labs
- c. The final exam will count 10% of the final grade.

Grade sheets will be printed and given to students when requested either before or after class. All graded work must be retained after it is returned to guarantee that grades entered in the grade book are accurate. Checking grades are the responsibility of the student, and any appeals to published grades must be accompanied by the work in question.

Guidelines for Success:

Expectations:

- Come to class on time with all required materials (homework, writing utensil, book, warm-up book, notebook).
- Take time to read the objectives on the board, the activities that will be done, and the assignments that may be listed.
- Be respectful of the rights of others. This includes being respectful to the teacher.
- Use positive comments and professional communication skills.
- Ask me for additional help after school when the need arises.

Kagan

- Students will be participating in Kagan structures to improve communication and teamwork skills. Participation in these activities is required to be successful in this class. This is a *nonnegotiable* since the purpose of the activities is to fortify information retention.

Factors Affecting Student's Grade:

- Students who miss lab activities will be required to make up the labs after school, obtain lab information from lab partners, or do alternate assignments depending on the situation. Lab techniques will be graded periodically. The ability of a lab group to remain on task and follow appropriate safety rules will be an integral part of these evaluations.
- Group presentations may be graded periodically. These may be assigned in advance or may be related to a just completed lab activity.
- Full credit will be awarded for assignments and labs that have been turned in on time. Late work will be graded with 10% deducted per each day the assignment is late.
- Classwork assigned prior to an assessment will be awarded a zero if turned in after the completion of the assessment.
- Interactive notebooks and Warm-up notebooks may be collected without notice and are worth a summative grade.

Make-up work:

- Make-up work can be completed for excused absences *only* as outlined in the student handbook. It is the student's responsibility to obtain make-up work from the make-up work folder. The student will then have the same amount of days to complete the assignment as they were absent.

Cell Phones

- You will be allowed to use their cell phone only at designated times during class for educational uses only. A sign will indicate when it will be appropriate to use cell phones for educational purposes. If you're using your cell phone in an inappropriate manner (ie texting, calls, social media), Mr. Prekrel will request your phone and the appropriate discipline action will be taken.
- Mr. Prekrel is not responsible if your phone becomes misplaced during school hours. Individuals assume full responsibility for their personal electronic devices as well as their Board-assigned devices. DCPS is not responsible for the loss of, or damage to, student or staff-own personal electronic devices (per DCPS calendar).

Extra help:

- I am available for tutoring. Just make sure to ask before in case there is a conflict with dates/times.