

**Millbrook Middle School**  
8<sup>th</sup> grade Physical Science 2025-26 Course Syllabus  
Mrs. Whitlock – Room 122

**Course Description: What will I learn this year?**

You will be working on developing skills in four areas: science content, scientific inquiry, lab skills, and reading/writing skills. Students will be laying the foundations for high school chemistry and physics in this class through lab investigations, discussion, writing, reading, technology, and homework assignments. You will be expected to master the science content in order to achieve each standard, so you will need to be an active participant in your education and learn everything you can! I encourage you to ask many questions and get help anytime you struggle.

**Units:**

Nature of Science	Solutions & Mixtures
Properties of Matter	Energy
Atoms & Periodic Table	Waves
Chemical Bonding	Forces
Formulas & Balancing Equations	Motion

**Grades: How will I be graded each nine weeks?**

Per county handbook the majority of in class science grades will fall on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please check my calendar on the school website for due dates and upcoming grades.

<u>50% Daily Grades (8-12 grades)</u>	<u>50 % Major Grades (4-5 grades)</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>
Science Notebook Grade	Unit tests	100-90: A
Lab Grades	County Checkpoint Tests	89-80: B
Quizzes	Projects	79-70: C
Daily Assignments	Major Labs	69-60: D
Cumulative IXL Assignments		59-0: F
County Writing Assignment		

Students will receive a quarterly progress report; however, parents and students may access grades **at any time** through the Powerschool portal. Grades, with the exception of projects, will be updated to Powerschool within 3 days of taking it.

**Working Together: What are the expectations?**

Be Respectful	Be Responsible and Resourceful	Be Safe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Follow all directions the FIRST time they are given.</li><li>Raise your hand and wait to be recognized before speaking.</li><li>Use appropriate language and conversational tone.</li><li>Use kind words and actions.</li><li>Respect property of others.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Arrive on time.</li><li>Be prepared by bringing all supplies.</li><li>Sit appropriately in assigned seat.</li><li>Complete and turn in all assignments and homework on time.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No bodily contact- Keep your hands and feet to yourself!</li><li>Stay in YOUR assigned seat unless permission is granted.</li><li>Use books, classroom materials, and equipment appropriately.</li></ul>

\*Any student not following the guidelines above is subject to receive STEPs, referrals, or other disciplinary action.

**Policies and Procedures: What should I know?**

Classroom Procedures:

- There is no gum or eating allowed during class or lab. Students may only drink clear water while in my class. This should be in clear, plastic bottles with lids. No food or drink will be taken to the lab.
- Students MAY NOT use their cell phones or digital devices during class for any reason. If phones or devices are out during class, students will receive an office referral. These devices should be off and in child's backpacks, not on their person.
- Per Elmore County any students completing academic work dishonestly will receive a ZERO with NO opportunity to make it up.

Lab Procedures:

- You are to follow all of the regular behavior expectations and are to adhere to the safety rules in the lab safety contract.
- You will be required to have a signed safety contract on file and to wear proper safety gear during labs this can include, but is not limited to closed toe & heeled shoes, gloves, goggles, and lab coats/aprons.
- There will be NO HORSEPLAY. Students will stay in their lab group. No Exceptions.

### Science Notebooks:

- Your science notebook should be used for science class ONLY.
- Each entry in your science notebook should be listed in the table of contents.
- Never tear pages out of your SNB! This will cause pages to fall out of the other side of it.
- Always write notes or assignments on the next available page. All entries should be added in chronological order. Do not skip pages.
- Always label your work with the Title.
- Notebooks will be checked and collected periodically. You will use these notebooks to help you study for tests and complete assignments. You must keep up with them or leave in your class basket in my classroom.
- Replacement pages are located in the make-up work basket until they run out. When they are gone, they are gone.

### Projects:

- There will be quarterly projects will count for test grades. Late projects will be deducted ten points for each day they are late.
- **All students in grades 5-8 are required to complete science fair projects this school year.** The final project can be digital (PowerPoint or Google Slides) and will be a test grade during 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Projects will be due before Thanksgiving Break. Projects also have to be pre-approved before beginning. Students are allowed to work with a partner or two other people. Projects will have components due at different times from September thru November. Some of these components will count as daily grades. Students who are selected to compete in the school science fair will have to complete a backboard and, or digital poster.

### Attendance and Make-Up Work:

- Please complete makeup work within THREE DAYS of your absence(s). A written excuse must be on file with the office for students to be able to make up work. Per the Elmore County BOE policy, unexcused absences for grades result in zeros in the gradebook.
- Arrange a time with me to make up missed tests or lab assignments. Sometimes, an alternate assignment will be assigned.

### Science Class Supply List:

Please have these items daily in class:

- Composition Notebook
- Glue Sticks
- Pencils
- Color Utensils
- Highlighters
- Scissors

### Wish List:

- Kleenex
- Paper Towels
- Clorox/Lysol Wipes
- Amazon Wishlist:

<https://amzn.to/4ojfQFa>



Sincerely,

*Mrs. Alicia Whitlock*

**School phone:** (334) 285-2100

**Email:** [alicia.whitlock@elmoreco.com](mailto:alicia.whitlock@elmoreco.com)

**Messaging through Parent Square is preferred and likely to have fastest response time.**

\*Please respect our teaching/class time and understand I will respond within 24 hours.

Student Name (First & Last): \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_