August 23, 2021

Physical Science
Trinity High School

Introduction

Dear Parent:

Science is headlining the news almost every day. It may be the severe weather and how it moved in, or genetics research, or the latest drug to hit the market. In order for us to stay connected with what is happening in conversations and make informed decisions it is necessary to have a solid background in science. Physical science combines two core areas of science, physics and chemistry, that your student will study to help prepare them for the world.

The most successful students are those who take responsibility for their own progress. We should try as teachers and parents to help the student grow in self motivation and in developing good study habits such as promptly completing homework, preparing for class (including tests), taking notes, and working with a study partner.

Physical science is a course that requires students to actively take part in their learning. This means that homework and study time are both vitally important. If you find that your student is still struggling in the course, know that help is available. I will arrange whatever I can to help your student achieve his or her best.

In this newsletter, you will find a list of policies and procedures. Please read them carefully with your student and make sure that he or she understands all the responsibilities that come with this course. Also note the needed materials**.**

I am looking forward to spending the semester exploring physical science with your student. As a team, I believe that we can have a very successful semester!

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Mindy Thornlow

Special points of interest:

- Introduction to course
- Required materials for course
- Class procedures and expectations
- Important Dates
- Class Rules and Consequences
- Contacting Ms. Thornlow
- ALL TEST DATES including each round

Calculators: The Student's Essential Tool

Physical science is a rigorous course incorporating not only science principles, but also mathematical equations. As such, it requires specific tools. The most important is a student's calculator. Students will be expected to have the ability to solve equations with a scientific calculator. This may be the same calculator that students will have for their math class, however, since these calculators can store a large amount of material that I may wish to test on, the memory will be cleared before all tests.

It is important you understand that for this class a scientific calculator is required. A graphing calculator is not required, but is acceptable.

Attendance

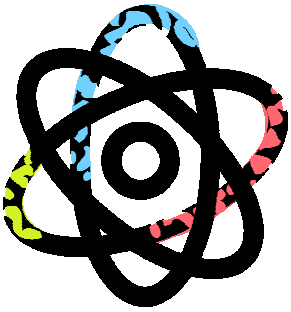
Because each class builds on previous knowledge, it is very important that students are in class every day. When absences cannot be avoided, it is the **student's responsibility** to get the notes and the assignments missed. This is the expectation of the teacher and the responsibility of the student.

Beginning Class

Students should come to class every day with their notebook, calculator, paper, writing utensil, and all work. Students are expected to be in the door BEFORE the bell rings and working on their warm ups OR class work assignment. Students should take care of all bathroom business BEFORE class. **That being said the students will be limited to SIX bathroom passes PER SEMESTER in the class. AFTER all passes have been exhausted the student will NOT be allowed to go to the bathroom in this class. There is 5 minutes in between classes and that is plenty of time to take care of business.**

Cell Phone Policy

Before entering the classroom, students are to power off all electronic devices and place them in the ASSIGNED cell phone parking lot (pocket). This is your verbal warning explaining this policy. All phones not placed in this location could result in a write up and office referral for insubordination!!!!!!



Homework

Students are assigned homework EVERY night HOWEVER if time is used wisely in class homework will be minimal. There will be class time for these assignments, but students are encouraged to work outside of class at home, in after school tutoring or any where that the student is comfortable and can concentrate. This helps when the student needs assistance the next day in class. Homework is an extension of the class lesson and is vital to successfully mastering physical science.

Unit Tests

Tests will be given at the end of every unit. If a student knows that he or she will be out of class on the day of a test (for a field trip, band concert, etc.) the student is responsible for making an appointment with the teacher and taking the test ahead of time. These tests will cover the same material as the regular test, but ***will not necessarily be the same test or format***. Tests will be graded by objective using the A/B/Not Yet policy described in the featured article on the next page of this news letter.

Grading Policy:

Tests: 45% Quizzes: 20%
Labs: 20% Classwork/Homework: 15%

Grade Distribution

A: 100-90 B: 89-80,
C: 79-70 D:69-60 F: <59

Important Dates

Final Exams: January 6, thru 14, 2021

Physical Science Survival Pack

Just like any project, physical science requires certain tools to get the job done right. Below you will find the required materials for the course:

GRAPHING Composition Notebook : A notebook will need to be kept specifically for physical science. Because there are so many notes and handouts, the graphing composition notebook works best for this class!!!!

Folder: This is JUST FOR PAPERS PRIOR TO BEING GLUED INTO OUR NOTEBOOKS!!!!!

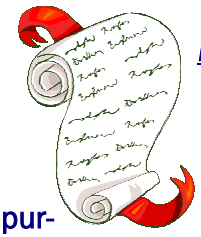
Writing Utensil : As always, a pencil is best for a science course. Your work will require you to make corrections and adjustments.

ALL work must therefore be submitted to me in pencil OR blue/black pen ONLY.

ABSOLUTELY NO, colored pen or pencil assignments will be graded/looked at and could result in a NOT YET (NY) on a test if done on qualifiers (ZEROS on other assignments! WITHOUT make up opportunity!!!!!!!!).

Calculator : See the article on page one.

Paper : Students should bring loose-leaf paper to work out problems and for some notes that are not completed on note sheets. This should be placed in the folder with your other materials.



Ms. Thornlow's Wish List

Kleenex
Colored Copy Paper
Highlighters (blue, green, yellow, pur- ple)
Pencils/Pens (blue or black ONLY)

FEATURE: A/B/Not Yet Grading System

I firmly believe that everyone can learn the concepts of physical science to a mastery level. I will be using a grading system that allows for multiple opportunities to reach mastery. The following information outlines my grading system:

1. Tests are written by objective, & each objective will be scored separately. This will allow you to retest only the portion that you struggled on.
2. The first opportunity of testing will be graded as A, B, or not yet (NY) for each objective. If needed, you may **EARN** a second opportunity to test & it will be graded the same as the first opportunity. If you still want to improve your grade, you may take advantage of a third opportunity to test, and it to will be graded A, B, or NY for each objective. Let me explain these concepts further:

You ***must be qualified*** to take an assessment in physical science for a grade. The following must be done prior to the first opportunity:

- For the FIRST round the only qualifier is the **PRACTICE TEST**. It must be completed & turned ON THE DAY OF THE TEST.

THERE ABSOLUTELY CANNOT BE ANY BLANKS ON ANY OF THE QUALIFIERS!!!!!!

If you do not qualify, you will **STILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE TEST**, but it will not count. You still want to do well so that you have fewer corrections later.

If you receive a NY on any objective on opportunity 1, you are **REQUIRED** to retake that objective. If you receive a B on any objective, you may choose to retake it. **If you do not retake any NY, then the ENITRE TEST will be entered as a zero.** This policy ensures whole content mastery, & will avoid students picking & choosing which objectives to complete on the test.

The following must be done prior to taking **opportunity 2, for those objectives you are retesting only**:

- All requirements for opportunity 1 are completed if they were not before.
- Test corrections for opportunity 1 must be completed on a **SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER** & turned in to me **ON TEST DAY**.
- All additional work which will be ATTACHED to your opportunity 1 test must be completed & turned in to me.

All grades will be entered into PowerSchool after the SECOND OPPORTUNITY test.

Letter	1st Try	2nd Try	3rd Try
A	100	95	90
B	89	85	80
NY	0	50	50

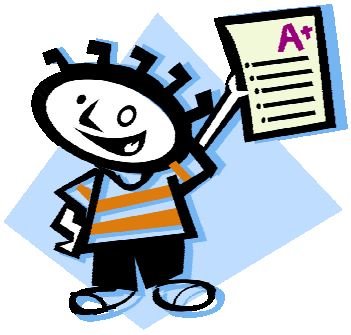
For those students who would like to try again on their objectives, you may take advantage of an **opportunity 3**. The following must be done in order to qualify for this test. This opportunity ***MUST*** be completed ***PRIOR*** to the deadline date on page 4 of the parent letter and via APPOINTMENT ONLY!!!

- Test corrections on opportunity 2 test for all objectives you want to retest.
- ANY incomplete work from opportunity 1 and/or 2 which you must meet with me to get what you will need to complete for opportunity 3 (NOT DURING CLASS TIME EITHER!!!).

- Further demonstration of working on the material. These are required to be quite substantive. There are many options for this, and it is the student's choice as to how they want to approach it. Ideas include, but are not limited to:

  ⇒ Creating a complete chapter outline from the textbook.
  ⇒ Creating a graphic organizer for the entire unit.
  ⇒ Creating a poster that summarizes the entire unit.
  ⇒ Create a parallel assessment for the unit, including an answer key.
  ⇒ Making flashcards of vocabulary, formulas, and/or symbols.
  ⇒ Student suggestions approved in advance by me.

The purpose of the above demonstration is to engage you in additional practice with the material in a new way. This additional practice is exactly what you need to improve your mastery of the material! Taking the third opportunity is quite a privilege and you will need to work hard to earn it. What a GREAT way to raise your grade and increase your understanding!



Instructor Information Ms. Mindy Thornlow
Student Help: DAILY from 3:15 to 3:30 p.m. EXCEPT TUESDAYS.
Phone: 336-861-6870 ext. 67218 Email: m1thornlow@randolph.k12.nc.us

Phone call usually are delayed due to the daily rigors of teaching therefore EMAIL IS THE BEST way to contact me and then we can set up a time to call if needed!!!!!

Rules

The following are four simple rules that will be followed in addition to the school rules/policies and lab procedures.

- Be Courteous—respect the other students around you as well as the teacher, and behave in a manner that exhibits this respect. Including the property in the classroom!!!
- Be Prepared—come to class on time with all materials, ready to work and learn for a full ninety minutes
- Be Responsible — for your materials, your deadlines, your behavior, and the lab equipment/substances when it is in use.
- Be Safe—due to the nature of manu of out labs it is EXTREMELY important that you respect the rules of the lab to protect yourself and those around you.

Consequences

Should any of the rules of the class or school be broken the following consequence plan will be put into action as appropriate.

1. Warning: verbal or non-verbal cue
2. Detention and the student will write a letter home to parent to be used at next consequence describing behavior and consequences. Parent will be contacted.
3. The letter written will be sent home to parent with addendum for current behavior issue. Additionally, the issue will be referred to the office
4. The last step will be a parent conference with a write up to the office with consequences being given basef off of board policy

Physical Science Assessment Dates
THEY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE based on WEATHER ONLY!!!!

Unit	Topics	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3 Deadline
0	Doing Science	August 27	NOT A/B/NY	NONE
1	Describing Motion	September 9	September 14	September 21
2	Cause of Motion	September 21	September 24	September 30
3	Causes of Change	September 30	October 5	October 13
4	Energy Movement	October 7	October 13	October 20
5	Stuff	October 15	October 20	October 25
END QUARTER 1 (FIRST NINE WEEKS)				
6	Energy and Particles	October 29	November 3	November 9
7	Particles	November 8	November 12	November 18
8	Particle Interactions	November 18	November 23	November 30
9	Reactions	December 2	December 7	December 13
10	Charge	December 13	December 16	NONE
REDEMPTION OPPORTUNITY HOME ALONE PHYSICS DUE JANUARY 7, 2022 WILL NOT BEACCEPTED LATE REDMEPTION OPPORTUNITY				
	EXAMS FOR ABSENCES OVER TWO		***January 6 or 7, 2022***	