



Mrs. Uszynski
Bennett's Mill Gifted Science
Class Syllabus 2013-2014
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Welcome to gifted physical science!!

Physical science is an exciting exploration of the physical world that includes both the study of matter (chemistry) and energy (physics). My desire is to provide a learning atmosphere that stimulates enthusiasm, fosters creativity, emphasizes scientific research and encourages students to stretch their minds as they explore and discover new concepts in science. Developing and refining experimental and engineering practices will be emphasized throughout the year along with using technology. It is my goal that every student will become more aware of the importance and relevance of science in the physical world around us and leave 8th grade with an excitement to want to learn more about chemistry and physics.

Procedure and materials: Students are expected to arrive in class on time and ready to work with the following materials daily:

2 pencils—sharpened before class
black or blue pen
highlighter

3-ring binder with science section
notebook **and** graph paper
agenda
assignments which are due

Supplies **needed for class on an irregular basis** include a storage medium such as a USB flash drive and index cards. Materials that will **make the student's job at home easier** include a scientific calculator, protractor, drawing compass, colored pencils, and 3-hole punch.

Physical Science Textbook: You will be issued either a hard a copy of Physical Science (McDougall Littell, ISBN #0618837574) textbook or the textbook on CD. The textbook or textbook CD should remain at home, as we will be using a class set of textbooks for any in-class textbook reading assignments. Treat your book with care and respect.

Assignments and grading: Assignments will consist of reading, lab/activity completion, research and projects, and studying. Any work that was begun in class and not completed is **automatically to be completed at home**. It is wise to review class notes regularly to be sure you understand and can apply concepts. Assignments for the week will be posted on the board on the first day of the school week and will remain there throughout the week. These assignments are to be copied into the Agenda when the student arrives in class the first day of each week. Assignments are subject to amendment as we progress through the week's lessons. Throughout the course, assignments will be divided into two main areas: **Formative Assessments** (class activities, informal labs, quizzes, and written work), and **Summative Assessments** (formal lab reports, unit tests, mini-projects, and major projects). Each assignment will be given a point value based on the length, complexity and rigor of the assignment. For instance, a unit test may count as 100 points, whereas a classwork assignment may count as 10 points. All grades will be posted on Infinite Campus. Please check regularly once this occurs so that we can work together to build success. Once an assignment has been scored, the score will be entered online. Zeroes are entered if work has not been received in a timely manner.

Interdisciplinary standards: It is important to emphasize good communication skills in student's work. Through writing across the curriculum, these skills will be transferred from the English class to all other academic areas. Students must proofread their final products with respect to essays, reports, and projects. A final paper should be error free; therefore, such errors will reduce the overall score. In addition, skills from other academic areas such as math, history, and geography will be needed to illustrate the complete picture of scientific discovery.

Projects: Every student will participate in projects, which correlate with units of study due throughout the year. Most will be done outside of class. There will be roughly one mini-project per quarter. Projects may include, but are not limited to, collections, models, research reports, essays, scientific investigations, and portfolios. There will be at least one major project per semester. The first semester's major project is completion of a science fair project.

Absentee policy: In accordance with county and school policy, all students will be given adequate time to make up work after an absence. However, failure to make up the work within the given period of time will result in a zero for the work. The only way a student will receive a zero in this class is to not turn in his/her work. It is the student's responsibility to get these assignments.

Due dates: Work is due on the assigned date. The due date for work that has been assigned during an absence is three days after the student's return. Students are responsible for getting assignments, etc., missed during an absence and submitting them in a timely manner. Work that must be made up at school, i.e. labs and tests, must be scheduled in the same allotted manner; however, they may actually occur outside this window depending on scheduling conflicts.

Lab Safety—Please read and follow the lab safety contract that is posted on the BMMS website, bennettmillms.org, academics science link. The safety and syllabus signature sheet that you received in class is to be signed and submitted for your file.

Workmanship: Always put your best work forward. Be neat and careful with your handwriting. **If I cannot read your work I cannot give you evaluate your progress.** Go the extra mile when completing student directed work—essays, reports, assessments, and projects. If you tell me something is not very good, I will agree with you as you know yourself better than I do. Your extra effort will be recognized. You are in constant competition—with yourself!!

Plagiarism: Working on assignments with friends can be rewarding in many ways; however, plagiarism of any type is intolerable. Both the student who copies and the student who allows the copying will bear the consequences and each person will receive an appropriate percentage of the actual score. Also, plagiarism of any media will result in a zero. Take notes while doing research, categorize the information, and then write it in your own words. A **minimum of three sources** is necessary for **all** research and all sources must be documented. This should give you ample creditable information while protecting you from plagiarism.

Gifted Continuation Policy (from the Fayette County Program for Gifted Learners)

"A student's performance in all gifted classes is reviewed at the end of each semester, earlier if difficulties become evident. Continuation in the Enrichment Program in Fayette County requires a student to meet criteria-specific performance requirements in classes for the gifted as evidenced by participation, completion of assignments, and the maintenance of an average of 80 or better in each gifted class and/or a 70 or better in each Advanced Placement class.

If a student fails to meet the performance requirements in a gifted class, the student will be placed on gifted probation the following semester for that department's gifted courses. Failure to meet the performance requirements in the same academic area for two consecutive semesters will result in the student being declared ineligible for gifted courses from that department for the entirety of the following semester and placed in a non-gifted core course in the same academic area. The student may regain gifted placement in that department after meeting all continuation requirements. Re-entry may occur only at the beginning of the next 18-week semester. The student is allowed to remain in all other gifted classes as long as all continuation requirements are met."

I am looking forward to an exciting and academically rewarding year.

Mrs. Uzynski