

Physical Science

Activities and Investigations



Dear Parent/Guardian,

This year your son/daughter has enrolled in my Physical Science: Activities and Investigations class. To maximize his/her chance of success in this course, it is important to me that

we open the lines of communication by exchanging names and phone numbers. My name is Ethan Leet and you can reach me at 607-656-4161 ext. 333 if you have concerns about your student.

"There's chocolate smeared all over your manuscript!
Have these data been fudged?!"

About the Course:

Physical Science covers:

- Earth Science
 - Earth's Interior
 - Earth's History
 - Plate Tectonics
 - Seismic Waves
- Chemistry
 - Describing Matter
 - Changes in Matter
 - Energy in Matter
 - Types of Materials
- Physics
 - Linear Motion
 - Momentum – Car Crashes
 - Kinetic and Potential Energy in a Roller Coaster
 - Waves and Music

This course will guide your son/daughter through the process of Science Inquiry. Science Inquiry is an on going and constant process that a person uses to simply learn about their surroundings. This course will start with a few research projects. Research is the key to learning about science. The main reason for research is to learn about what has already been done or experimented with. The students will learn how to make good use of researching tools and how to present their findings to their peers. The next step is learning how to develop a good experiment. Experiments should if possible be safe and cost effective as well as easy to perform by anyone. Students will design experiments that their peers will have to perform. There will also be a few building projects where students have to build a bridge, boat, or something. Most materials are common household materials. I expect each student to contribute their fair share to their group or class.

General Information: (Percent of Grade)

1. Attendance (10%) (*Note: if more than 24 class periods are missed, automatic failure.*)
2. Homework will be assigned frequently. (20%)
3. Quizzes will also be frequent and may be unannounced. (20%)
4. Exams will always be announced. (30%)
5. Projects and “mini” lab experiments will be assigned regularly throughout the semester
6. Each marking period there will be at least one large project. (All projects are 20%)

The Student Will Need:

1. **Calculator** with an exponent (EE or EXP) button and trigonometry functions (SIN, COS, TAN).
2. A 1.5 inch **3 ring binder**.
3. Loose-leaf paper for note taking, which will go into the binder.
4. **PEN** and **PENCIL**

Classroom Rules:

1. Be **on time** in seats, homework out, when the bell rings
2. Come **prepared** – bring books, notes, homework, pens, pencils, and calculator every day
3. **Follow directions** correctly the first time
4. **Raise your hand** and wait to be recognized before talking or leaving your seat
5. Be **courteous** to others – no swearing or teasing

** These all fall under the three basic rules: RESPECT, COOPERATION, and PARTICIPATION

Grading Policy:

1. There is an attendance point awarded each day they are present for the whole class.
2. The lowest homework and lowest quiz grade will be dropped each marking period.
3. If a student does not have the homework done the period it is due, a zero will be assigned.
4. **Extra credit** is given on most quizzes and exams.
 - a. There are lots of opportunities given for extra credit. For example:
 - i. Solve creative problems.
 - ii. Watch a science related TV program or read a science article and write a short summary of the program/article.
 - iii. Museum Visits, Clip out science cartoons, clip out/take science related pictures and bring to class with a summary write up and willing to present to class.
5. This is a project driven class, meaning working with partners. Each project will have at least 50% of the grade being totally subjective as determined by me, the teacher. If I feel you didn't contribute to the group, then your grade will reflect your effort.

Absenteeism

1. **It is the student's responsibility to find out, make up, and hand in all missed work!**