

Welcome to 8th Grade Physical Science! In this course you will be learning about the **non-living** world around you. Study of the non-living world can be broken down into 3 branches of science: chemistry, physics and earth science. **Chemistry** is the study of the composition of matter and how it reacts. **Physics** is the study of matter and energy and how they are related. **Earth Science** is the study of the Earth, Atmosphere, and Space. The 8th grade curriculum focuses on Chemistry and Physics; however, since students are required to take a State Science Test at the end of this course, we will also be incorporating concepts from Life and Earth Sciences. Topics studied include: scientific method, matter, energy, motion and force. Learning will occur through group activities, demonstrations, hands-on investigations, science current events and research based projects.

Class Requirements:

- ✓ composition notebook
- ✓ pen and pencil
- ✓ binder or folder
- ✓ loose-leaf paper
- ✓ calculator (optional but recommended)
- ✓ Science Textbook : Holt Science Spectrum Physical Science with Earth and Space Science 2013 (on-line)

I am happy to announce that we have new on-line science textbooks this year. The on-line textbook allows students to access their textbook from any location and offers many features to enhance your child's understanding of science concepts. Soon your child will be coming home with a user name and password that they can use to access their on-line science textbook. Students that do not have internet access and/or computer access will be provided with a CD-ROM or regular textbook.

Grade Composition: Quarterly Grade

Each quarterly grade will consist of two parts:

30% Standards Based Grade	Major Marks = unit exams, interims and chapter tests
70 % Participation and Preparedness	Minor marks and Teacher Evaluation = lab reports, bell ringers*, graded homework, classwork, quizzes and teacher evaluation **

*See Bell Ringers Explanation

** See Teacher Evaluation Explanation

Classroom Guidelines:

The Four BE'S

Be On Time.
Be Respectful.

Be Prepared.
Be Positive.

Classroom Policies & Procedures:

Assignments:

Assignments are due at the start of class on the date specified. If a student is absent, then the assignment is due the day they return. Students that do not complete their homework will be invited to join Ms. Craig for a working lunch.

Teacher Evaluation:

Every day, each student that is present automatically earns 4 points toward their TE grade. If you are not in class, you do not earn these points. If you are late to class you may lose one or two of these points depending on the nature of your tardiness and the frequency. You may also lose these points if you are unprepared for class or have not completed your homework assignment. You may also lose points if you are not participating in the class discussion or activity. Finally, you will lose your points if you are disruptive or disrespectful to your peers or to me. At the end of each quarter I will total up your TE points and divide them by the total possible points to determine your TE average for the quarter. Absent students may earn back their TE points by showing me they have caught up on missed lessons.

Written Bell Ringers:

Every day you will begin class by copying the question on the board and then answering that question on the bell ringer form that I will provide for you. Questions and answers must be written in complete sentences. For each entry you will receive 1 point for the date, 1 point for the question, 1 point for answering in a complete sentence and 1 point for the correct response, for a total of 4 points for each entry. If you are absent you must see the Bell Ringer Binder to make the question(s) you missed. If you leave an entry blank, you will not receive credit for that day, even if you were absent.

Late arrival:

If you arrive late to class, you must have a **signed pass** from the office or from the teacher whose class you are coming from. Upon entering the classroom, you will **quietly** join the class and open your agenda to your passport page with the signed pass.

State Science Exam:

There are two parts to this evaluation, which is very similar to the state science test given in 4th grade. The first part is the performance portion (hands on) in which the student will perform tasks in a lab setting. You will be scheduled for one 45 minute testing period between May 25th and June 3rd. The second portion is the written exam, which will occur on Monday, June 6, 2016. Please try to avoid absences during this time. If an absence is unavoidable, please contact me via phone or email at your earliest convenience.

I encourage all students to participate in this examination. It is a good preparatory experience for the Regents Exams that students must take in high school to earn a diploma. In my opinion, this is the best test they will ever take because of the “fun” hands on portion and the variety of science topics addressed.

Attendance:

Regular class attendance is necessary to be successful in this course. If you are absent, **YOU** are responsible for finding out about any make up work, assignments, or notes.

Here are the ways you can stay on top of your education when you are absent:

1. **Check my web page!!!!** Assignments and notes are posted daily.

***Please note, we are changing to a new web site program – my new and improved web page will be up and running soon.**

2. **Hand in your homework!** – If homework was due on the day you were absent, put it in the inbox when you return to school.

3. **Homework Request:** If you are out sick have your parent or guardian call the Middle School Office and request your homework for the day.

4. **Study Buddy:** I suggest that each of you to get a study buddy that is in the same science class as you. This person should be someone that you can contact outside of school to fill you in on what you missed or who will fill you in when you return to school. This includes sharing notes, telling assignments, reminding of quizzes or tests or describing lessons missed. This **does NOT** include sharing answers to homework, quizzes and/or tests. (see cheating policy)

5. **Check your class folder:** I will have missed handouts in the folder waiting for you.

6. **See me:** At the beginning or end of class, during study hall or prep periods, or at the beginning and end of the school day. (See my schedule)

Passes:

Any time a student leaves the classroom they must have permission from the teacher and must have a signed pass in their agenda. It is the student's responsibility to accurately fill out the pass in his or her agenda and to ask permission at a time that will not disrupt class. For example, a good time to ask to use the restroom is after you have completed your bell ringer and have handed in your home work or at the end of a lesson when students are beginning their homework assignments. *Students should not ask to use the restroom during a lesson or while working on a lab unless it is an emergency.*

Cheating , Plagiarism, Cell Phone See School Policy

Help:

If you are struggling with procedures, lessons, homework and/or organization I am here to help. You may ask me for help or I may ask you to let me help.

You Choose

* You may arrange to see me during prep periods, study halls, in the before homeroom, or after school. See me to set up an appointment.

I Choose

*Homework not done/organization problems – I invite you to join me for a working lunch.

*Procedures not followed – I invite you for a re-training session. Re-training sessions are a brief review of specific procedure with which you struggle. This will primarily be done at the beginning of lunch but may occur before school.

Ms. Craig's Schedule:

8:00	Ms. Craig arrives at school		
9:11 – 9:56	1 st	Class	RM 57
9:59 – 10:39	2 nd	Prep	
10:42 – 11:22	3 rd	Class	RM 57
11:25 – 12:05	4 th	Study Hall	RM 57
12:08 – 12:48	5 th	Class	RM 57
12:51 – 1:21	6 th	Lunch	
1:24 – 2:04	7 th	Class	RM 57
2:07 – 2:47	8 th	Prep	
2:50 - 3:30	9 th	Study Hall	RM 57

I am here for YOU!!! If you do not understand something, need extra help, or want to review, please come to me. **I will make every effort to help you.** You just have to let me know.

My phone number is 298-8681 ext. 3057

I can also be reached by email at the following email address: hcraig@nccscougar.org

Take this home and have your parents read and sign below and return to me by **September 15, 2015**. Contact me by phone or at the above email address if you or your parent(s)/guardian(s) have any questions or concerns.

Keep your syllabus in your Science Binder/Folder.



Cut here



For my information please check the box below that applies to your household.

- ☐ Have computer and reliable internet access
- ☐ Have computer but not reliable internet access
- ☐ No computer and no internet access

I have read, understand, and agree with all of the classroom policies, guidelines and requirements for Ms. Craig's Physical Science Class.

Student's Name (print) _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

**Please return completed slip to Ms. Craig by
Tuesday, September 15th.**