

8th Grade Physical Science 2008-2009 Amy Robertson

Shadow Ridge Middle School

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<http://teachernotes.googlepages.com/srmscience>

| Topics | Approximate Time |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Safety and Inquiry | 4-5 weeks |
| Motion and Forces | 8-9 weeks |
| Energy | 4-5 weeks |
| Electricity | 1-2 weeks |
| Light | 1-2 weeks |
| Properties of Matter | 8-9 weeks |
| Classification of Matter | 4-5 weeks |

| Grading Scale | |
|---------------|---------------|
| A | 90.0-100 |
| B | 80.0-89.9 |
| C | 70.0-79.9 |
| D | 60.0-69.9 |
| F | 59.9 or below |

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| On group projects, students will receive a grade for individual work and a group performance grade | |
| Individual Grade | 25% |
| Group Grade | 75% |

* Assessments are based solely on demonstrated student progress and on achievement of reasonable and clear standards.

Grades

Grades will be calculated based on the total points in a grading period. Letter grades will be assigned based on the grading table above. Ms. Robertson encourages students to persist in their assignments so that adequate progress and good grades can be achieved. Assessments and grading standards are applied consistently to students of similarly demonstrated ability.

Essential Learnings

- I. Each student will be able to conduct, communicate about and evaluate scientific investigations.
- II. Each student will know and understand that matter has characteristic properties related to its composition and structure.
- III. Each student will distinguish between physical and chemical changes by making observations.
- IV. Each student will understand the classification of matter in terms of elements, compounds and mixtures.
- V. Each student will understand that energy appears in different forms and can move and change.
- VI. Each student will know and understand interactions of motion and energy.
- VII. Each student will understand physical and chemical change through demonstrations and conducting investigations.
- VIII. Each student will know and understand interrelationships among science, technology, and human activity, and how they affect the world.

Colorado Science Content Standards Met in This Course

Standard 1: Students apply the processes of scientific investigation and design, conduct, communicate about, and evaluate such investigations.

Standard 2: Physical Science: Students know and understand common properties, forms, and changes in matter and energy.

Standard 5: Students understand that the nature of science involves a particular way of building knowledge and making meaning of the natural world.

Additional Assistance

I am available for additional assistance. Students should always ask to verify when I am available for help. While I do have set times that I am there, things may come up and my availability may change.

Grade Updates

Weekly progress grades are posted at <https://secure2.adams12.org/scholarsmart/> and progress reports that include assignments will be emailed to students and parents who provide a working email address.

Late Work

Any work turned in late will receive a maximum score of 70% of the possible points. There is a two (2) day grace period after the original due date. After the grace period, the 70% maximum will be enforced.

Absences and Make-up Work

Students who miss class are expected to make up the work they missed. When students return, they should look at the weekly schedule posted and retrieve any handouts from the Missed Class box. The district policy for late work will be used to determine due dates for assignments late due to absences. If you know about an absence in advance, you are expected to plan and work ahead to minimize the impact of your absence.

Student Expectations:

- Bring to class every day: #2 pencil or a blue or black ballpoint pen
White, ruled paper
Science notebook
You will need a scientific calculator – does not need graphing ability.
- It is expected that students will be in their seats and ready to work when the bell rings. Every time a student receives three unexcused tardies, lunch detention will be assigned.
- A three ring binder is required specifically for science class. You will be expected to keep all notes, class materials, worksheets, handouts, returned quizzes and tests, etc. in this notebook until the end of the unit.
- All work must be done on 8x10 1/2 or 8 1/2 x 11 white paper in dark blue or black ink or #2 pencil. Include your first and last names, date and class period at the top of every assignment. Graphs must be hand drawn in pencil on graph paper.
- During this class period, we are working on science. If you have materials from another class out, they may be confiscated and not returned.
- There is NO eating or drinking in the classroom, except for screw-top water bottles. This is a safety issue. For the same reason, all makeup, lip balms, lotions, etc. need to stay in your locker.
- Phones should be left in lockers. If they are out for any reason, they will be confiscated and following district policy they will be returned. They may NOT be used as calculators or timers. If you have an emergency situation where voice contact is critical, leave your phone with me, and I will answer and then excuse you to the hall for your conversation.
- Please leave your headphones, music, and all other non-classroom material in your locker. If they are out, I may confiscate them for a parent to pick up in the office.
- During tests and quizzes, there is NO talking. Talking with others may result in both students' papers being taken away and your scores being 0.
- Plagiarism is not acceptable. If plagiarism is detected, the paper will receive a 0 and cannot be made up. Additionally, the information will be turned over to the administration. Plagiarism includes copying material from any source, including fellow students. Cheating on labs, tests, and quizzes follows the same policy.
- Additional safety rules for lab days will be discussed separately. There will be a required safety contract, to be signed by student and parent or guardian.