

8th Grade Physical Science

Mr. Carlos Hernández

2011/2012

Syllabus

Room 10

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E-mail: carloshernandez@ssas.org

Welcome to your final year at SSA+S. Our focus in class this year is physical science. We will be looking at the scientific method, properties of matter, force, motion, and energy. Eighth grade students, as all students at SSA+S, are required to work on a science fair project. Eighth grade students will also be taking the Science FCAT test this year as well.

Materials:

Students will need to bring to class daily:

- Agenda book
- Pencils or pens (blue or black ink)
- Composition notebook (For science fair projects)
- Duo-Tang folder for class
- Notebook paper in a binder

Grading:

- Bell Work 5%
- Quizzes 30%
- Classwork /Homework/Labs 30%
- Tests/Projects 35%

Bell Work (5%)

As a student enters the room, there will be work for them to do, posted on the board. They are to gather their materials and begin working. They are expected to have this work finished as the teacher has finished taking roll. **Bellwork is NOT optional!**

Quizzes (30%)

Quizzes will take place from time to time and will consist of five to ten questions based on the week's lesson. Pop-quizzes can (and will) occur at any time.

Classwork/Homework/Labs (30%)

Homework is 30% of the grade in this class. Often, it will involve some studying and perhaps some written work. During the first semester, the homework for all students will be to work on science fair. Students will be asked to turn in homework assignments regarding science fair during the first semester. Students will also be responsible for studying their key terms and notes taken in class. Homework cannot be made up unless a student was absent.

Mr. Hernández loves to have hands-on lab activities that enrich the information covered in class. On the day of the lab, questions regarding the procedures will be addressed before the lab. Although students will be working in groups, each individual student will still be responsible for their individual lab worksheets. Since labs are 30% of the student's grade, students should be prepared for a lab as they would a test. **Missed labs cannot be made up.** If a student misses a lab they should speak to their group partners about what was done and learned from the activity. The student is also encouraged to speak with the teacher about an alternative assignment when the student returns.

Tests (35%)

Tests will be given upon the completion of the current chapter or at Mr. Hernández's discretion. We will have a chapter review a day or two before the test; however, students are still responsible for studying the material on their own. Study guides will be given to students before a test and will also be posted on Edline. Test dates will be announced in class about a week before the test.

Absences

When a student is absent from class, it is the **student's responsibility** to get the make up work and/or assignments from the make up work bin in class. **It is recommended to exchange contact information with at least two people in the class you can call to obtain information when you are out.** You are responsible for checking the **"Make Up Work Bin"** for any assignments missed on the days you were out. The make up bin is located just under the bellwork whiteboard upon entering the classroom. It is your responsibility to look up the work missed and make it up on time – I will not remind you. You have 2 days for each excused, missed day to make up assignments for full credit. Work turned in after that will be reduced by 50%. Work may not be made up after 2 weeks of missing the assignment, except when an extensive absence from class occurs with parent/guardian notification.

Important reminder:

If a student is absent on the day that a quiz and/or test (or the student signs out to go home before class or is late and comes to school after class) that student is required to make up that quiz and/or test **the day they return.** Students will know a week before an exam is given, so quiz and test dates will be known ahead of time.

Contacting the teacher:

The best way to contact Mr. Hernández is via e-mail at CarlosHernandez@ssas.org. If a student or parent sends an e-mail, a response will usually get back to them within 24 hours, unless the teacher is absent from school. Phone calls and email will not be answered on the weekends or during school breaks. So, please do not be offended if an email is sent on a Friday and you don't get a response until Monday. Parents may also contact Mr. Hernández by calling the school and leaving a message (330-1855 x110). Please keep in mind that it might take me some time to get back to you if phone tag is played! Again e-mail is the best way to get a hold of Mr. Hernández. Conferences are scheduled shortly after each midterm. Any parent/guardian who is concerned about their student's progress should call the School Receptionist to schedule a conference for these days.

| Assignment | Assignment Description | Suggested Time to Complete this Step | Due Date |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Topic Checklist | Students research topics and narrow it down. They submit the topic checklist with parent and student signatures. | 14 days | 9/2/11 |
| Problem Statement/Question | The specific question the student will be investigating in the project. | 7 days | 9/9/11 |
| Research Index Cards & 3 Sources | The Research Index Cards are used to guide you in doing background research. You should have all bibliographic information for each of the 3 (or more) sources of information (author, date, publisher, website, etc.). Your teacher will go over with you what they require for this assignment. | 7 days | 9/16/11 |
| Variables and Hypothesis | Variables are the factors that will be changed during the experiment (includes IV, DV, and CVs). The hypothesis is a one-sentence statement that predicts the outcome of the experiment. | 3 days | 9/23/11 |
| Background Research Paper & Bibliography | The purpose of the Background Research Paper is to provide information to help understand why the experiment turns out the way it does. The bibliography is the list of information sources in MLA format. | 12 days | 9/28/11 |
| Materials and Procedures | A detailed list of the materials that will be used to conduct the experiment and the detailed steps that will be followed during experiment. | 7 days | 10/4/11 & receive forms |
| Forms & Research Plan | Completed ISEF Forms and Research Plan (includes Problem Statement, Hypothesis, Materials & Procedures, Bibliography). | 7 days | 10/11/11 |
| Conducting the Experiment | This is the period of time that students are actually doing their experiment and collecting data. Minimum of 3 trials. If students are working with plants, they should have 3 plants for each variable tested. | 14 days | 10/12/11 – 10/28/11 |
| Data Analysis and Graphs | The analysis of the experimental data. A summary of the findings of the experiment in graph form. | 7 days | 11/4/11 |
| Conclusions | An explanation of the results of the experiment. | 7 days | 11/11/11 |
| Abstract | A 250 word description of the entire experiment. | 2 days | 11/14/11 |
| Final Project (Report, Display Board, & Log Book) | The final report includes all written elements of project submitted as a final report. Display board, Final Report in Folder, and Log Book are all turned in. | 3 days | 11/16/11 |
| School Science Fair | The date of the SSA+S Science Fair. | | 11/29/11 |
| County Science Fair | The date of the Sarasota County Science Fair. | | TBA |

Units of Study

As the units progress, you will be more completely informed of each unit of study, and given dates of coverage, assignments and tests through the Team News (which can be accessed through the school's website). Class work, assignments, study guides, other helpful materials, and websites are also posted on Edline.

First Quarter

Scientific Method
Motion and Forces

Second Quarter

More Motion and Forces
Energy

Third Quarter

More on Energy
All Things Matter
Chemistry
Waves

Fourth Quarter

Electromagnetic Spectrum
Atoms
Periodic Table of Elements
Metals, Non Metals and Metalloids

Discipline Plan for Mr. Hernández's Science Class

Classroom Rules

1. Respect others; this means keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
2. Participate in all activities to the best of your abilities.
3. Listen to instructions the first time they are given.
4. Do not use vulgar or offensive language. There is no name calling in this class (including calling someone stupid.)

If You Choose to Break a Rule

First Offense:

Visual (The Look) or Verbal Warning

Second Offense:

Write classroom rules and parent notification (via phone, document said call with date, time, person contacted).

Third Offense:

Behavior essay with signature from parent (s).

Fourth Offense:

In school morning detention.

Fifth offense:

County referral (One or more days out of school suspension)

Student or parent refusal for student to write classroom rules or behavior essay , and also a refusal to do a morning detention will be considered to be a fifth offense. If an offense, at the discretion of the teacher, is severe enough, the first two steps can be omitted resulting in the third step, as long as a phone call from the teacher accompanies this action of discipline.

Students are not permitted to "tell" the teacher how the discipline plan should be administered.

Rewards

Praise (daily)
Positive notes home (random)
Happy teacher and therefore, happy students.
Various other positive perks (throughout the school year)

Procedures

1. When the teacher raises their hand and says, "GIVE ME FIVE", students are to be quiet immediately and raise their hand as well.
2. Students are to enter class, get what they need from their backpacks out, put their backpacks in the appropriate area (to be discussed), select a text (if required for that day), take their assigned seat and begin their bell work.
3. Students will read the board, or designated area, for any instructions by the teacher for the class period before the bell sounds.
4. Students must listen quietly to the morning and afternoon announcements.
5. Students who have been absent will check appropriate wall bin for any make up work and submit work from absences in the appropriate wall bin.
6. Students will head all papers in the upper right hand corner including their name, date, and period.
7. Students will follow teacher's procedure for dissemination and collection of papers, books, and assignments. (To be discussed)
8. Students will not speak when another person is speaking during classroom discussion or presentations.
9. Students will randomly be selected to be PPO's (Paper Passer Outers) or other duties each month.
10. When students desire to leave class, they must fill out their agenda book, secure permission from the teacher, and sign out on the sheet provided at the door. Please do not ask to leave the room while the teacher is speaking unless it is an absolute emergency.
11. The teacher, not the sounding of the bell, will dismiss students from the classroom. The teacher will give a one-minute warning before a quiet dismissal.
12. Students must leave their workstations clean and free of clutter.
13. Students must respond to emergency codes with silence.
14. During lab times students are to follow safety procedures. (No horseplay will be tolerated.)
15. Sharpen pencils only when the teacher is not speaking. For example, before sitting down upon entering the classroom.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

After you and your parent/guardian have read the syllabus, please fill in your contact information and sign at the bottom.

Parent/guardian name:

(Please Print Name Clearly)

Relationship to student:

Student Name:

(Please Print Name Clearly)

Contact numbers:

_____ Best time to call: _____

_____ Best time to call: _____

Student Signature:

Parent/Guardian Signature:
