

8th Grade Physical Science

Ms. J.K.L. Crowe



2011/2012 Syllabus

Room 1

Phone: (941) 330-1855 ext 101

(This room and this extension will be only for the start of the school year.)

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Welcome to your final year at SSA+S. As in all things, how much you get out of the class will be a direct result of what you put into it. Please remember, if at any time you feel “lost” or that you do not understand a particular concept, skill, or process please do not hesitate to ask.

You may ask your questions in person, write them in a note, send me an email, or leave a voice message on my school line. My job is to help you succeed; it is what I am here for, to guide you, to teach you, to be here for you.

We will be looking at the scientific method, and all things related to Physical Science, please see the content areas later in this paper. 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. You will be asked to write lab reports on many of the labs we do. We will be involved in many activities and performance evaluations during the course of the year.

Materials:

Students will need to bring to class daily:

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

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. 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!** Students are required to also read the day's agenda, which is also posted on the board.

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, on specified dates. 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.

I love 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. Each student is expected to work diligently on the labs. **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 the teacher'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 on the wall to the left 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.

Students who are absent will need to see at least three other students to obtain class notes taken while they were out. All work, when completed is to be handed to Ms. Crowe.

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 Ms. Crowe is by email. You may contact me at any time. You can go to the schools web site and find my name and click on the link to contact me via email, or just send the email to either: jancrowe@ssas.org, or to ladycrowe@comcast.net. You may also contact me through Edline.

If a student, or parent, sends an e-mail, I will usually respond within hours. Phone calls will not be answered on the weekends or during school breaks. Parents may contact Ms. Crowe by calling the school and leaving a message (330-1855 x101). Please keep in mind that it might take me some time to get back to you if phone tag is played! Phone messages are listened to in the mornings, and after school. Again e-mail is the best way to reach Ms. Crowe. 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.

Expectancies for 8th Grade Students for the school year 2011-2012

The intention of the following schedule is to be an outline of expected outcomes. Length of time to complete a given unit of study is based on the progress made day to day by each of the classes. There may need to be adjustments due to many factors.

Students will keep all class-work and notes for a given unit in their three-ring binder. Coach Science Books will be kept in the classroom, as well as a folder. These items will help students at the end of a unit, to prepare for the unit test. Furthermore, they are encouraged to keep all material in a safe place at their home, to help them study for the end of the quarter, and end of the year tests. I would recommend saving all of your study guides until the year is over!

Once papers are graded they are placed in a drawer, which is clearly marked for each period. Students who are designated as the current "paper passer out", will check this drawer at the start of each day, and pass papers out to all students. We will also use this drawer when we do work in class that takes more than a day to complete. In this way no papers are lost over night!

There are definite assignments and due dates for the Science Fair Projects.

Please note that we will cover the regular science units during the times we are not working, in class, on the science fair. It is expected that during the science fair preparation time (roughly the first semester) the student's science fair project is their homework! You are encouraged, however, to read the science text at home now and then. You are also required to study and prepare for tests at home!

A short list of important dates:

Science Fair information night on August 25th

Topic checklist due for science fair on September 2nd

Problem Statements due on September 9th

Research outline and bibliography due on September 16th

Variables and Hypothesis due on September 23rd

Background Research and Bibliography due on September 28th

Materials and Procedures due on October 4th

Forms due on October 11th

October 24th -End of Q1.

Data Analysis and Graphs due on November 4th

Conclusions due November 11th

Abstract is due on November 14th

Projects due on November 16th

November 23-25 Thanksgiving Break

School Science Fair November 29th 5:30-8:30PM

WINTER BREAK!

January 13th End of Q2

SPRING BREAK!

March 28th End of Q3

Mini Break April 6.

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 you can access through the SSA+S web site. If you do not have access to the Internet you may pick up a copy of the Team News at the main office. 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 Ms. Crowe's Science Class

Classroom Rules

1. Respect others; this means keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself, and respect the possessions of others.
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.
5. Listen to your classmates when they are addressing the class.

If You Choose to Break a Rule

First Offense:

Visual (The Look) or Verbal Warning

Second Offense:

Write classroom rules and parent notification

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, or fourth step.

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. A teacher does not have to say the words, but merely raise her hand!
2. Students are to enter class, retrieve their Coach Book as well as their class folder, take their seat quietly and proceed to number 3!
3. Students will read the board, or designated area, for any instructions by the teacher for the class period before the bell sounds. They will proceed to the Bell Work, and have it completed by the time the teacher has taken attendance.
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 to the teacher.
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 discussions 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. Students are to follow safety procedures. (No horseplay will be tolerated.)
15. Students are to sharpen pencils only when the teacher is not speaking. For example, before sitting down upon entering the classroom.