

Physical Science Syllabus

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Course Description and Expectations:

Freshmen level science is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of physics, earth/space science, and chemistry. Content will be presented through discussion, diagrams, videos, laboratory investigations, and projects. Students must work to acquire the skills of scientific inquiry, be active participants in the learning process, and show evidence of understanding the state science standards.

Required Class Supplies for EVERY DAY:

Science notebook/journal, proper writing utensils, and school laptop

Backpacks, purses, headphones, coats, food/drink, and small electronic devices are not on the class supply list. If students are sent to their lockers to return one of those items they could receive an unexcused tardy.

How to Succeed in Science:

1. Come to class prepared and limit absences as much as possible.
2. Take good notes in class, be an active participant, and stay organized.
3. Ask questions – in class, before/after school, or through email!
4. Prepare for assessments and quiz retakes.
5. Have fun! Arrive with a positive attitude!

Standards-Based Grading:

Students will be assessed on their ability to understand and apply the Iowa science standards. Students will practice concepts in class and will complete formative assessments to gauge their comprehension. The practice and formative assessment scores may be recorded in the JMC gradebook but will not factor into a final grade. Graded assessments will include quizzes and projects related to the standards. Students have the opportunity to retake any quiz once they have completed additional learning activities to increase their mastery of a standard. Note: It is not about how many questions a student answers correctly, it is about how deeply a student understands the content.

Score	0 to 3: Not Yet Proficient	3.5: Novice	4: Apprentice	4.5: Practitioner	5: Expert
Analysis	Student either has not provided evidence of understanding the Standard or still holds significant misconceptions. <i>Additional learning activities and assessment retakes are required.</i>	Student demonstrates minimal understanding of the Standard, needs lots of help, and is not yet at grade level. <i>Additional learning activities and assessment retakes are required.</i>	Student demonstrates a developing understanding of the Standard but has questions and needs some help. <i>Additional learning activities and assessment retakes are recommended.</i>	Student demonstrates strong understanding of all facets of the Standard without any help. <i>Additional learning activities and assessment retakes are allowed.</i>	Student demonstrates understanding of the Standard in all applications, can make connections to other science concepts, and can explain the content to others with sound reasoning.

RHS Grading Scale:

0 - 68% = F

75 - 76% = D+

83 - 84% = C+

91 - 92% = B+

95 - 100% = A

71 - 74% = D

79 - 82% = C

87 - 90% = B

93 - 94% = A-

69 - 70% = D-

77 - 78% = C-

85 - 86% = B-

First Semester Grading (approximate)

Big Idea 1 Standards: 40%

Big Idea 2 Standards: 25%

Big Idea 3 Standards: 30%

Journaling: 5%

Second Semester Grading (approximate)

Big Idea 4 Standards: 25%

Big Idea 5 Standards: 40%

Big Idea 6 Standards: 30%

Journaling: 5%

Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism:

Students are expected to conduct themselves with integrity. If a student is caught plagiarizing or cheating in any way, that student may earn a failing grade on the assignment or be removed from the class.

Classroom Atmosphere:

Students are expected to contribute to a positive learning environment by respecting the rights of other students to learn, respecting the right of the teacher to teach, and by accepting responsibility for their own learning.

Time in class will be focused on learning science and therefore listening to music without permission, streaming videos, and playing unapproved games will not be tolerated. For this and any other inappropriate behaviors listed in the school handbook, students will generally receive a warning and then a detention if the behavior continues.

Contact Information and Website:

Parents/guardians are welcome to contact me by email (hhinkhouse@riverside.k12.ia.us) with questions about student grades, behavior, or science content. Students and parents should use **hinkhousescience.weebly.com** to review science content and to keep track of science standards and learning targets.