

**Syllabus for 8th Grade
Physical Science
2006-2007 School Year
Matthew Dennis**

Materials needed for class:

1. Pencil, blue or black pen (no multi-colored pens will be allowed in class)
2. Small notebook that you can add loose leaf paper to. The small 1 inch ones or the paper ones are the best for that. **NO SPRIAL NOTES, TRAPPER KEEPERS OR BIG THREE RING BINDERS.**
3. Prentice Hall Physical Science Book
4. Calculator

You need to have all of your supplies by the end of the first week of school. Make sure you have the required items each time class meets. There might be a few things I would have you bring in to class through the year but I will give a least 1 week notice before we need them for class.

Course Objectives:

There are three main objectives of this course:

- ★ (1) To improve your basic chemistry knowledge. This means that you will have an understanding of the structure of matter down through the subatomic level, how substances interact to form new compounds, why the periodic table is arranged in the manner it is, what solubility is and how to effect the speed of solubility, and how to identity different types of solutions .
- ★ (2) To improve you basic physics knowledge. This means that you will have an understanding of forces, motion, scientific work, waves, heat, light, sound, electricity, and magnetism
- ★ (3) To improve your understanding of the process of science inquiry which is the scientific method by which natural phenomena are observed, interpreted, and reported. It is through this process that one gains an understanding of our natural world and the effects of human activities upon it.

Course Outline (this a suggested time frame, may change due to unforeseen things)

1 st 9 weeks	9 August – 6 October	Introduction to Science Methods, Matter, and Periodic Table
2 nd 9 weeks	9 October – 19 December	Chemical Reactions, Acids and Bases, and Nuclear Changes
3 rd 9 weeks	4 January – 9 March	Motion, Forces, Work, and Waves
4 th 9 weeks	19 March – 24 May	Sound, Light, Heat, Electricity, and Magnetism

Class Rules:

1. **Do not lean back in the classroom chairs.**
2. **Be on time for class.**
3. **Bring all required materials to class, this includes the specially requested ones.**
4. No eating in the classroom. (This includes GUM, CANDY, and COUGH DROPS). If you need to have cough drops, you will need to talk to me before class starts (before the bell rings).
5. **No leaving class** except under dire circumstances (i.e. you are getting sick and going to throw-up). In most cases you will not be allow to go make telephone calls at the office unless you are running a fever or showing some visible sign of sickness. My call on this!
6. Keep talking off the subject to a minimum this includes talking to your classmate next to you or close to you.
7. **No** writing on the desks, tables or chairs with pens, pencils, erasers or anything else that will make a mark on them.
8. Pay close attention to what is going on in class and in lab. This also includes following directions written and oral. If you do not you could get hurt.

9. Makeup work has to be done and turned. The number of days will be equal to the number of days that you are out. If you are out 1 day, you will have 1 day to complete and turn in make up work; two days out equals two days to get the work in. But if the absents in NOT excused, you will NOT receive any make up work.
10. If you break a piece of equipment then you will be responsible for replacing the equipment or paying for it.
11. Follow all rules regarding labs.

Above rules apply to all the members of the class. If you break one of the rules, **then**

1st Offense	Verbal Warning	
2nd Offense	1 Written Assignment or 1 Day of Early Morning Detention	Definitions/paragraph
3rd Offense	Double Written Assignment or 2 Days of Early Morning Detention	Definitions/paragraph
4th Offense and upward	Principal's Office or paddling along with parent being notified	
Failure to finish assignments puts the offense in the next higher category. Example, if you don't do your first writing assignment, then I double it.		

In addition, if you are continuously doing minor things to get into trouble, then you will skip steps 1 and 2 or in the case of major discipline problems (fighting or major disrespectful behavior, you will skip steps 1-3). But, I am looking forward to having a great year with no problems.

Grading Policy:

Tests	55 percent	tests or projects
Notebook Checks	15 percent	Notebooks will be checked after each test
End of Chapter Review Work	10 percent	Average of all you end of the chapter review work
Daily grades	20 percent	Homework, class assignments, lab activities, and pop quizzes.

All students that will receive a midterm report at the 4-week mark of a 9-week term.

If you have any questions please call me at 218-2331 and schedule an appointment to see me during my planning period or you can contact me using email at matthewd@scottsboro.org or dennism@scottsboroschools.net

Also I will be setting up a homework/test review session each night on MSN Messenger for anyone that is interested. I will give you the times after the first week of school and how to add me to your contact list.

I have read and understand all of the information contained in this document. I also pledge to do my best to follow the class rules the entire year.

Printed Student Name _____

Student Signature: _____

Printed Parent Name _____

Parent Signature: _____