

Millbrook Middle School

8th grade Physical Science 2020 – 2021 Course Syllabus

Course Description: What will I learn this year?

An inquiry-based approach will be used to develop concepts and skills aligned with the Alabama Course of Study and the Common Core College and Career Readiness Standards. You will be working on developing skills in four areas: science content, scientific inquiry, lab skills, and reading/writing skills.

Students will be laying the foundations for high school chemistry and physics in this class through lab investigations, discussion, writing, reading, technology, and homework assignments. You will be expected to master the science content in order to achieve each standard, so you will need to be an active participant in your education and learn everything you can! I encourage you to ask many questions and get help anytime you struggle.

Units and Timeline: due to the unpredictable nature of school this year, we will attempt to follow the sequencing of units, but edgenuity may not follow along exactly.

Methods of science	energy & waves
properties of matter	Forces & Motion
chemical & physical changes	conservation of matter

Grades: How will I be graded each nine weeks?

<u>50% daily grades (minimum of 8)</u>	<u>50 % Major grades (4-5 grades)</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>
Science notebook grade	Chapter tests	100-90: A
Lab participation/assessment	End of unit tests	89-80: B
Quizzes	Projects	79-70: C
Daily assignments	Labs	69-60: D
		59-0: F

Students will receive a quarterly progress report, however parents may access their child's grades **at any time** through the iNOW parent portal.

Working Together: What are the expectations?

1. I will treat all students and their property with respect.
2. I will come to class ready to teach challenging, meaningful lessons.
3. I will challenge you to do your best work.
4. Students should come to class prepared to learn; this includes attitude, completed assignments, charged chromebooks, and supplies.

Policies and Procedures: What should I know?

Classroom Procedures:

- Enter Room 122 before the tardy bell rings. I will close the door then, and you will be tardy if you are still on the other side of it. If you come to class late, you will need to sign the tardy log.
- Place your bookbag under your desk or along the back wall. You will only need materials for this class at your desk. Leave phones and other unnecessary items in your bookbags.
- Log into google classroom to check for and begin working on the warmup.
- During pre-dismissal, students will be dismissed, one row at a time, to straighten desks and line up across the front of the room while I disinfect desks.
- Students may not use their cell phones during class for any reason without teacher permission.

Lab Procedures:

- Mrs. Alvarenga is always the first one in and the last one out of the lab.
- We will meet in the hall outside lab. I will check for appropriate wardrobe and shoes, address any last minute concerns, and then move quickly and quietly the class will enter the lab. Place backpacks in the proper area and go directly to your assigned lab station.
- You are to follow all of the regular behavior expectations, and are to adhere to the safety rules in the lab safety contract.
- Failure to abide by rules and expectations will result in you being removed from the lab and barred from returning until a parent conference has taken place.

Supply List:

Please bring the following to class:

- \$10 lab donation (pays for lab materials throughout the year, including tee shirts for tie dye lab)
- 2 Composition notebooks (for science class only, no spiral or binders) sewn bindings are much more durable than glued or perforated ones.
- Pencils or pens
- 5 pack of glue sticks (replace as needed)
- Scissors

Appreciated donation items

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|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| - Kleenex and paper towels | - glue sticks | -hand sanitizer |
| - Copy paper | - Clorox/lysol wipes | - bandaids |
| - Hand soap refill bottles | - wooden pencils | -full sized scissors |

Science Notebooks:

- Your science notebook should be used for science class ONLY.
- Each entry in your science notebook should be numbered.
- Never tear pages out of your SNB! This will cause pages to fall out of the other side of it.
- Always write notes or assignments in the next available page. All entries should be added in chronological order. Do not skip pages.
- Always label your work with the TITLE and Entry Number
- Notebooks will be checked often and collected periodically. You will use these notebooks to help you study for tests and complete homework assignments. You must keep up with them.

Attendance and Make-Up Work:

- Elmore county has adopted a new virtual engagement attendance policy. Students who are out sick or have another approved absence will be assigned work on edgenuity. Upon completion of the assignment, students will be marked as VP, which will not count against attendance for exemptions.
- Students with single day absences may be allowed to complete in class assignments and also earn VP status.

Remind text messages/emails: text (1st period) **@alvasci1**, (2nd period) **@alvasci2**, (4th period) **@alvasci4**, and (5th period) **@alvasci5** to 81010.

My assignment calendar is on the school webpage, available through the elmoreco.com website.

Please visit my page on the school website to virtually sign that you have received, read, and understand both this syllabus and a lab safety contract.