**Smitha Middle School**

**Physical Science 8th grade**

**678-594-8267**

2019-2020

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**COURSE SUMMARY**

The physical science course develops student achievement with respect to Georgia Science Content Standards for 8th grade. The major strands are study of physical science that includes ***nature of matter, force and motion, forms and transformations of energy, electricity and magnetism, and the nature of waves***

**STUDENT AGENDA**

**Safety Standards:**

Lab safety guidelines must always be followed in every lab session. A separate lab safety and signature sheet will be on file in our classroom. Our lab safety contract was sent home in the 1st day folder. If you did not receive one, please email me and I will forward it to you. Please review these guidelines to ensure safe laboratory practices.

**TEXTS AND RESOURCES**

We are very excited to have a new textbook this year. The students will have a student work textbook and they will have access to an online edition. This source will be available on the science teacher’s website/blog. It will be a password protected site.

Students should be checking the website/blog nightly for assignments or updates about class. The website/blog is updated with resources that will aid the student in learning the material. Check frequently, as resources are added regularly to match what we are learning in class.

**CLASSROOM MATERIALS**

2” 3 ring binder

Dividers

Notebook paper

Colored pencils

Glue sticks

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

I expect that as a model student you will take:

1. responsibility for creating a positive classroom environment by following these rules:
   1. Be polite. Respect everyone’s space, privacy, and opinion and I will do the same for you.
   2. Listen attentively to instructions. No talking while the teacher is talking or during announcements.
   3. Raise your hand to talk or for permission to get out of your seat.
   4. If you are working with a partner or group, use your “quiet voice”.
   5. Be dismissed by the teacher, NOT the bell.
2. responsibility for your own learning:
   1. Be punctual. Students are to be in their assigned seats when the bell rings.
   2. Be prepared mentally and physically. Bring all necessary materials to class every day.
   3. Turn in assignments on time. Late work submitted after one week is subject to a decrease of one letter grade. At the 4 1/2-week progress report date, no work that was due before the grade report will be accepted.
   4. Have a positive attitude and a serious willingness to learn.
   5. Students need to know and understand all concepts within the curricular.

**UNITS OF STUDY (1st Semester)**

***Unit*  *Duration***

Nature of Matter 9 weeks

Force and Motion 9 weeks

**METHODS OF ASSESSMENT**

Students’ progress will be evaluated in several ways. The students will be evaluated for their journal/binder, worksheets, homework, class participation, quizzes, tests, projects, and lab work. Grades will be based on the percentage of points accumulated throughout the term.

**GRADING AND REPORTING**

Grading criteria is as follow:

* + - 1. 60% Summative (Unit tests, projects)
      2. 40% Formative (quizzes, labs, exit tickets, quick checks, etc.)

**HOMEWORK POLICY**

Homework will be strongly encouraged as a means of practicing newly taught skills, reviewing previously mastered skills, developing independent study habits, or to extend and enrich the curriculum. Completing homework is also strongly encouraged as a means of preparing for class discussions, class work, quizzes, and tests. Some students may need more preparation than others, and some assignments may be noted as required and will be expected to be completed by all students.

**MAKE-UP WORK POLICY**

Turn in assignments on time. Late work submitted after one week is subject to a decrease of one letter grade. At the 4 1/2 week progress report date, all work due before that date will not be accepted.

## CONDUCT

If you have missed a class due to your absence, it is your responsibility to find out what work you have missed and to make up the work so that you will not lose credit for the assignments you have not turned in. **It is extremely important that you utilize the absence bins that have been made for you to retrieve any assignments/papers that need to be completed.** As for tardiness, the school tardy policy will be strictly enforced.

**PARENT TIPS**

Parents are encouraged to visit websites/blogs nightly to keep current on classroom activities. Students are required to visit the site nightly to receive instructions on homework assignments when given. Websites/blogs are an effective way to keep up with the class on a day to day basis.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Ms. Stuber Thursday 4:30 – 5:15 pm

Ms. Louifaite

Ms. Walens Tuesday 8am – 8:45am

***We look forward to helping your son/daughter have a successful year!***

*This plan may be changed to reflect the needs of the students.*

Please return this part of the syllabus once signed by both parent and student! Thank you.

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**Student Name (printed) Student Homeroom**

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**Student Homeroom**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature and Date**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Name (printed)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Signature and Date**

**Please add any other information below that you would like the science teacher to know.**