**8 th Grade Physical Science**

Ms. Coleman Room 110

Email: colemsh@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

**Course Description**

Welcome to 8th Grade Physical Science! This year you will be exploring the fundamental concepts of chemistry and physics. Students will investigate the structure of matter, chemical reactions, motion, forces, energy, waves, and the behavior of light and sound. Through hands-on scientific investigations, interactive activities, and scientific inquiry, students will develop a deeper understanding of the nature of the real world around them. Students will develop the skills necessary to critically think, make observations, and analyze data. So, get ready for some great Science!

 **Unit 0** – Think Like a Scientist

 **Unit 1** – Interaction of Energy & Matter

 **Unit 2** – Structure & Properties of Matter

 **Unit 3A** – Waves

 **Unit 3B –** Waves

 **Unit 4** – Forces

 **Unit 5** - Motion

**Class Supplies**

* 1 pocket folder for additional handouts, **or** you may use the science section of your binder
* 1 Composition Notebook (logbook for science fair project)
* Pencil pouch to include pencils, pens, erasers, color pencils, wired earbuds, scissors, tape, etc.
* Workbook/textbooks (supplied by teacher

**Classroom Expectations**

As your teacher, I am committed to creating a classroom environment where every student feels safe, respected, and inspired to learn. In our classroom, I expect students to:

* Be Respectful. Treat classmates, teachers, and classroom with respect.
* Be on time. Be in your assigned seat when class starts
* Be engaged. Participate in discussions, labs, and group activities.
* Be responsible. Come to class prepared and ready to learn with a positive attitude.
* Use technology wisely. Use devices for educational purposes only.

If a student finds it difficult to follow classroom expectations, the following interventions will be used:

* Warning/Redirection/Student-Teacher Conference
* Parent Contact
* Detention/Parent Contact
* Teacher-Parent-Student-Conference/Behavior Plan
* Administration Referral & Parent Contact

Please use the Middle School Discipline Plan and RCSS Code of Conduct for more details. Throughout the year, students will be rewarded with positive behavior.

**Cell Phone Policy**

The use of cell phones, electronic communication devices and/or accessories is always prohibited for all students during the instructional day, which is defined as the time the student arrives on campus until the end of the school day and/or the time the student leaves campus. The instructional day includes, but is not limited to, class periods, class changes, study halls, and any other structured or non-structured instructional activity that occurs during the normal school day. Students are not allowed to use cell phones in the common areas, hallways, restrooms, locker rooms, or any other areas during the instructional day.

**Assignment Submissions**

All assignments are due by the specified date posted or announced in class. Timely submission is critical for maintaining course progression, feedback, and fair assessment.

* **Late Assignment/Missing Assignments –** Students are only allowed a grace period when they have communicated with Ms. Coleman their reason for a late submission. Late Assignments will be noted in Infinite Campus. Assignments will receive a 5% decrease in grade each day, not exceeding 25%.

Missing assignments will receive a grade of zero (checked in Infinite Campus as “missing”).

* **Absent/Make-up Work – Assignments** not submitted due to absence will receive a “missing score” unless prior arrangements have been made with Ms. Coleman. All students are responsible for completing work when they are absent. In exceptional circumstances (e.g., illness, family emergency), make-up assignments may be offered at the instructor’s discretion. These will be tailored to ensure they meet the learning objectives of the missed assignment.

**Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

When an assignment calls for students to produce original work, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is prohibited. While there may be appropriate times for students to use AI during the learning process, using AI to generate original work in place of the student completing the work, is considered Academic Dishonesty and can be punished according to the rules outlined in the Code of Conduct

**Grading Policy**

All grades will be based on standard proficiency. Assignments will be categorized by formative or summative assessments.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Formative Assessments - 60%** | **Summative Assessments - 40%** |
| Classwork, Homework, Quiz, Lab/Activities, Class Participation, Bell Ringers | Unit Tests, Projects |

**Science Fair**

The Science Fair project is a key component of our science curriculum, designed to engage students in scientific methods and foster skills in research, experimentation, and presentation. Each student will be responsible for designing and conducting an original experiment and presenting their findings. Additional information will be provided in the Science Fair Handbook.

**Tutoring/Additional Help**

If you need tutoring or additional help, please schedule an appointment with Ms. Coleman prior to staying before or after school.

**8th Grade Physical Science Syllabus**

**Student Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Course Disclaimer: This is a tentative plan for the 2025-2026 school year. All information is subject to change as needed. Any changes will be updated and distributed***

I have read, acknowledge, and fully understand the expectations, rules, and procedures that are expected of me as a student enrolled in this course.

**\*Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read, acknowledge, and fully understand the expectations, rules, and procedures that are expected of my child as a student enrolled in this course.

**\*Parent Signature** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_