

...Home of the Dragons...



Physical Science

8th Grade

Ms. Owen

Course Syllabus 2024-2025

Course Description and Objectives

The Eighth Grade Georgia Standards of Excellence for science are designed to give all students the necessary skills for a smooth transition from elementary physical science standards to high school physical science standards. The purpose is to give all students an overview of common strands in physical science including, but not limited to, the nature of matter, conservation of energy, energy transformations, conservation of matter, kinematics, and dynamics. These standards are not intended in any way to take the place of the high school physical science standards. Eighth grade students keep records of their observations, use those records to analyze the data they collect, recognize patterns in the data, use simple charts and graphs to represent the relationships they see, and find more than one way to interpret their findings. They develop conceptual understanding of the laws of conservation of matter and conservation of energy, are able to explain the characteristics of the motion of an object (speed, acceleration) and the way that forces may change the state of motion of an object. They use what they observe to explain the difference between physical and chemical changes and cause and effect relationships between force, mass, and the motion of objects. Students in eighth grade construct explanations based on evidence on the difference and similarities between electromagnetic and mechanical waves. Eighth graders plan and carry out investigations, describe observations, and show information in graphical form. The students replicate investigations and compare results to find similarities and differences.

Textbook

InspireScience – Physical Science, Energy and Motion (McGraw-Hill) - Paperback version (4 per student) - Launchpad app

Unit/Concept Names

Unit 0 – Think Like a Scientist

Unit 1 – Interaction of Energy and Matter

Unit 2 – Structure and Properties of Matter

Unit 3 – Waves

Unit 4 – Forces

Unit 5 - Motion

Richmond County Board of Education Grading Policy

- Minor Grades 60 %
 - o **Minimum number** of minor grades per 6-week progress report period = **5**
- Major Grades 40 %
 - o **Minimum number** of major grades per 6-week progress report period = **2**

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Academic Grading Scale

A (90-100) B (80-89) C (75-79) D (70-74) F (below 70)

- Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's grades using the district Infinite Campus Parent Portal.
- Please contact the front office at 706-737-7288 for information to gain access to Infinite Campus.

Academic Dishonesty

The Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty will be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher and a supervising administrator, taking into consideration any written materials, observation, or information from witnesses. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, the task may be entered as "incomplete" and the student required to redo the assignment or retake the assessment.

Late Work

Late work is defined as assignments that are submitted after the specified deadline. This does not apply to work submitted late due to absence from school. Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Multiple incidents of late work may result in teacher-student-parent conferences to examine and correct the student's work habits through a behavior and academic contract. Students in grades 6-12 may have their scores reduced by 5% per school day for a 25% maximum reduction (five school days). Late work submitted after the fifth school day will only be accepted at the teacher's discretion. Completing work in a timely manner during the learning unit is essential for academic success. If the score is reduced for late work, the teacher must make a notation in the Infinite Campus comment section of the gradebook to reflect the reduction for late work. Students and parents should refer to the teacher's course syllabus for specific late work procedures.

Make-up Work

Students are expected to make-up assignments and assessments that were missed due to absence from school. Students are responsible for asking teachers for the make-up work upon returning to class. Make-up work should be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. Teachers should provide reasonable timelines for completing make-up work. Generally, such work should be completed within 5 days of returning to school. A student should not be required to take a quiz or test on their first day back at school if the assessment was first announced during their absence. Graded assignments should be scored to accurately reflect the level of mastery of standards.

Homework

Students may receive standards-based independent practice for homework. Please refer to Canvas or your student's planner for information regarding homework assignments.

Relearn & Reassess (R&R Procedures)

For grades 4-12, after any major assessment, students should have the opportunity to submit a relearning plan for parent and teacher approval. Upon satisfactory completion of the plan, as determined by the teacher, students should be given a minimum of one opportunity to be reassessed. Students scoring below 70 on a major assessment should be expected to complete a relearning plan unless exempted with parent approval.

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AI Guidance

The Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance, or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty. The unauthorized or improper use of an artificial intelligence (AI) program constitutes academic dishonesty.

Teachers have discretion to determine if R&R opportunities will be given for any **minor assessment**.

Cell phones are not permitted in class, per school policy, and should not be seen nor heard. Students should turn cell phones off and place them in their bookbags.

Classroom Procedures & Expectations

Please see Canvas for classroom procedures and expectations.

Course Materials

- Highlighters
- Loose-leaf notebook paper, college ruled (2)
- 1"-1.5" D-ring binder (2)
- 5 tab dividers (1 pack)
- Pencils
- Composition notebook
- Coloring pencils or crayons
- Earbuds or headphones (plug-in)
- 2-pocket plastic folders with 3 holes (2)
- Student planner

Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further guidance on Richmond County School System's policies and procedures.

My contact information: Ms. Owen

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

Tutt Middle School Phone Number: 706-737-7288

Please sign and return this portion of the syllabus to affirm that you have reviewed this document:

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Phone Number: _____ Email: _____