

Physical Science
Syllabus and Classroom Procedures
09-10

Mr. Benham

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Physical Science covers the fundamentals of earth science: chemistry, geology, astronomy, and physics concepts outlined in the California Science Content Standards and the State's Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program. Students who complete this course will have satisfied the required year of Physical Science.

Course Outline for First Semester	Course Outline for Second Semester
1. Introduction to Earth Science	1. California's Water
2. Plate Tectonics	2. The Atmosphere
3. Earthquakes and Earth's Interior	3. Moisture, Clouds, and Precipitation
4. Volcanoes and Other Igneous Activity	4. Climate
5. Rocks and Natural Resources	5. Our Solar System
6. California's Resources and Natural Hazards	6. Beyond Our Solar System

Textbook

The textbook is Prentice Hall Earth Science. All students will need to checkout a textbook from the library. The students will also have on-line access to the textbook as well as practice tests and study materials. Students are financially responsible for the individual books or CD's that they check out. All books must be covered.

Materials

Students need to come to school prepared and ready to succeed. It is important that they have all the tools they will need to function at school every day. To this end, the following is a list of material that students need to have for science class.

Students must have at the very least Paper and Pencils for Class

1. 1-inch 3-ring binder (soft-sided works best)
2. Ink pens: Blue or Black ink only
3. #2 pencils with erasers
4. Lined notebook paper
5. Highlighter Pen
6. Flashcards

Grading

The approximate breakdown of work in this class is as follows:

30% Worksheets and Homework

10% Labs and Activities (including presentations and projects)

40% Tests and Quizzes

20% Mid-Term Exam and Final

Grading Scale

100% - 90% = A 89% - 80% = B 79% - 70% = C 69%-60% = D 59% - 0 = F

Passing Physical Science is a requirement for graduation, so it is important that students maintain a passing grade.

Grades will be posted frequently on my web site. The four and thirteen week reports are progress reports. Only the nine and eighteen week grades are used for eligibility. The semester grades are the only permanent records. Grade changes are made only when an error in calculations occurs.

Homework/ Class Work

I give homework to reinforce the lesson that is being taught, usually about 2-3 times a week. On days there is no written homework, students should review and prepare study materials for the next test. Students are expected to correct any wrong answers on all graded assignments and to keep them in their science binder when returned. The students should also copy the daily agenda into their science binder during the first five minutes of class. All assignments will be numbered and listed on the table of contents of the science binder. There will be frequent quizzes on this information and material covered in class. **Late homework will not be accepted.**

Absent Policy (excused absences only)

Students absent on the day an assignment is due will have the assignment due on their return. Students absent on the day an assignment is given will have the same amount time to complete the assignment as students who were present. Missed tests and quizzes will be taken on a student's return. Class notes may be obtained from classmates. It is a good idea to have the phone numbers or e-mail addresses of a few classmates. It is the student's responsibility to turn in absent work with "Absent" written under the heading and highlighted.

Tardy Policy/Truancy Policy

Tardiness is a disruption to the total classroom learning process. District Truancy and Tardy Policy will be followed. **Students will be dropped from class after a fourth tardy or truancy.** Please read the parent/student handbook for details.

Aeries Parent Portal

Would you like to know all the updated information on your student? With the Aeries Parent Portal you have your own personal password, which allows you to log

on from any computer with Internet access to view your child's grades, attendance, classes, and course history. To register:

1. Go to www.cjuhsd.k12.ca.us
3. Select Los Osos
3. Select Aeries Parent Portal and fill out the information

Class Expectations

I believe in mutual respect among the teacher, student, and parents. If a problem arises in the classroom, I will refer to the school's disciplinary policy. I do not allow eating, chewing gum, or drinking anything other than bottled water in class.

No personal electronic equipment is allowed in class. Parents may pick up confiscated electronics at the dean's office after school. The school is not responsible for confiscated items. Personal grooming needs to be taken care of prior to class.

Students are expected to use class time wisely; wasted class time will be made up after school during detention.

Los Osos High School enforces a "NO TOLERANCE" cheating policy. The first time a student is caught cheating in my class a zero will be given on that assignment or test. The second time the student is caught cheating he or she may be dropped from the class. Cheating includes plagiarism, copying another student's work (even if it is a lab or class work), and allowing another student to copy any of their work. I expect students to know and follow these rules and all school rules, and that no further warnings will be necessary.

Extra Credit

I may periodically give assignments that will count as extra credit points throughout the semester. It is the student's responsibility to take advantage when the opportunity presents itself.

Please sign and return bottom section only.

Student Name _____ Period _____

Student signature _____ Date _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

E-mail address _____

Put e-mail only if you do not receive grade updates already. I will use the E-mail address to notify parents when the grades are updated and when there is important class news. (Please Print E-mail address neatly)