

Pine View School

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<http://sarasotacountyschools.net/schools/pineview>

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7th GRADE SCIENCE

Pine View School

Text: *PHYSICAL SCIENCE (2012)* by Glencoe

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www.gleitzscience.com

Course Introduction/Overview

The goal of this course is to (1) explain how the world around us works (dispelling prior misconceptions) (2) and to give you the tools of investigation needed to do independent problem solving. Learning is an active process which occurs in the mind and does not occur unless the participant is *actively engaged* in exploring his or her own knowledge. The role of class activities is to maintain a high level of engagement and hold students accountable for learning. The role of the teacher is not to give students a long list of facts to memorize but to coach students through this process; ultimately the quality of a students' educational experience is largely determined by his willingness to participate in this process.

This course will survey the fundamentals of chemistry and physics. The topics will include the scientific method, the nature of matter, motion, forces, atomic theory, and chemical reactions.

Assignments will be given regularly, as described in the following pages. Chapter tests will be announced in advance, but quizzes may be given at any time without notice. It is for this reason that students are wise to keep up to date with assignments and class discussions.

Parents may contact the instructor at any time either by email or by calling 486-2001 and leaving a message. I will be glad to return the call ASAP but expect the fastest response via email.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Required Materials: 70 page spiral notebook, graph paper (100 sheets), Blue/Black ink pens, Colored pen for checking, #2 Pencils, Scientific calculator (the one for math will suffice), 3-ring binder with college ruled paper

Class Procedures and Student Conduct

1. **Beginning class** students are expected to be in assigned seats on time and with materials, text and notebook, and working on assigned material until the instructor requests attention.
2. **Organizational skills** include *effort, promptness, attendance, preparedness, and cooperation* will be an integral part of the quarter grade and observed and evaluated informally daily (formative) and formally with each unit (summative).
3. **Dismissal** The instructor, not the clock, will excuse the class when the room is in order and all materials have been returned.
4. **Conduct** Appropriate behavior is expected from each of us. This includes how we treat one another and how well we perform our studies and use our class time. If class time is not used wisely, students may be required to come to class/school to make up work not completed during the class period.
5. **Food** and gum in class are not allowed.
6. **Electronic Devices** such as mp3 players/Cell phones must be OFF, and out of sight! Phones go to the office if seen.
7. **Working together** can be helpful when difficult studies are done with another student and working together is encouraged for this reason, but one must not copy another's work. Discussion is permitted, but copying another's work **is not tolerated** and will result in both parties being penalized as outlined in the student handbook.
9. **Absence/Tardy** In addition to the student handbook policies, students must receive previous approval to miss class for the purpose of working in another classroom. If not previously approved, it is unexcused. Detention and grade reduction may result from unexcused absence and tardiness.
10. Students are expected to arrive to class on time with required materials, complete homework assignments. Students are also expected to have an attitude conducive to the PV mission. Students shall follow lab safety procedures; failure to do so will result in (a) significant grade reduction in this category (b) a possible zero for the lab, and (c) discontinuation of lab participation.

Consequences Middle and high school students are very familiar with expectations regarding student conduct; therefore, do not expect repetitive reminders. There will be the following consequences: 1. alternative seat 2. 1:1 conference 3. alternative room (and parent contact) 4. Discipline Referral.

Assignments and Grading

1. **Daily Homework, Class Assignments, and Notebook Check (50%)** A course 3-ring binder must include a table of contents at the front that includes chapter number, assignment name, and page number in ink in your notebook. The notebook should hold all written work and will be collected before the end of each grading period and a grade given for completeness and quality of the text, class, lab, video and reports notes. There will be notebook checks given in the form of open-note quizzes
2. **Assessment (50%)** This includes classwork, projects, quizzes, and tests. Quizzes may not be announced. Makeup tests/late tests and quizzes will be done by appointment in room 118 after school and may differ from the original form scheduled for the class and/or and not

receive benefit of a curve. Make ups must be completed within one week. Missing the scheduled makeup appointment will result in a grade of F. (Note-programmable calculators may not be used for tests.)

3. **Late work policy** Work submitted after the due date and assignment check will receive a 30% penalty if completed before the exam. Work checked for completion only will receive 50% credit. **Assignments will not be accepted after the unit test.** Exceptions will be made for excused absences and an additional number of days equal to the number of excused days absent will be allowed, as outlined in the school handbook.

Additional Notes

1. **Videos** Instructors will be showing clips from *Mythbusters*, *Physics Alive*, *Mechanical Universe*, and other educational resources. If you request that your student do not view any of these, please notify the instructor.

2. **Extra credit work** Students are encouraged to do extra-credit activities that are related to our course of study, such as a science fair project, and reports on books or articles. It is recommended that it be discussed with the instructor prior to beginning to determine the appropriateness of the topic.

3. **Help!** Students in need of help with the course material should discuss this with the instructor so assistance may be arranged for during and/or outside of the class period. It is very helpful when difficult studies are done with another student and working together is encouraged for this reason. **Please feel free** to see the instructor.

4. Class assignments may be found on the course website at www.gleitzscience.com or following the link on the PVS website.

Going Above and Beyond

In this class, a student may exceptional achievement may include the following:

(1) Independent problem solving, (2) Strengthening inquiry skills by utilizing resources outside of those provided directly by the teacher, (3) Outdoing oneself, (4) Mentoring classmates (not copying work!)

Donation

I wish to ask for a \$10 donation for course supplies. This request is just that, a request and completely optional and would be greatly appreciated. It will be used to enhance this course. Thank you.

I have read and understand the expectations and procedures for this class.

Student Name (print): _____

I have read the science laboratory safety rules (see separate sheet) and agree to comply.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Date

I have read the course expectations and procedures.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Date