

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Science  
2017-2018 School Year

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Message from the Teacher

**"Nitschmann is committed to cultivating a respectful community of innovative learners who are socially competent citizens ready to meet the challenges of their future."**

Communication

The preferred way of communication is email. Other ways to communicate include phone messages and notes in the student's planner.

Course Description

The students will encounter hands-on experiences with topics of four areas of Physical Science: Structure of Matter, Forces and Interactions, Energy, and Characteristics of Waves. Throughout the semester, students will be applying the scientific process along with the use of tools and technologies to problem solve and investigate the natural world around us. The application of Math and Reading Standards will be incorporated throughout the science course.

Student Textbooks & Materials

Textbooks: *Science Explorer Series: **Chemical Building Blocks; Chemical Interactions; Motion, Forces and Energy; Electricity and Magnetism; Sound and Light***

*Discovery Education- Techbook*

*Schoology- Learning Management System*

Required Student Supplies

- Blue Notebook
- Blue Folder
- Colored Pencils/Markers
- Pens –blue or black
- Pencils
- Bottle of Glue (Preferably NO glue sticks)
- Scissors
- Headphones/Earbuds
- A Positive Attitude

Major Course Objectives

Students in middle school continue to develop understanding of four core ideas in the Physical Sciences. The middle school performance expectations in the Physical Sciences build on the K – 5 ideas and capabilities to allow learners to explain phenomena central to the Physical Sciences but also to the Life Sciences

and Earth and Space Science. The performance expectations in Physical Science blend the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge to explain real world phenomena in the Physical, Biological, and Earth and Space Sciences. In the Physical Sciences, performance expectations at the middle school level focus on students developing understanding of several scientific practices. These include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanations; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. Students are also expected to demonstrate understanding of several of engineering practices including design and evaluation.

### Major Projects

The projects for the year include but are not limited to:

- Interactive Science Notebook (all year)
- Metric Olympics
- Student Led Lab Stations
- Corn Starch Lab
- Element Fashion Show
- Multi Media Project
- The Great Energy Debate

### Teacher Homework Policy

All students are expected to complete all homework. Included in that expectation is the daily use of the student planner. Time will be given everyday to write assignments in the planner.

### Teacher Grading Policy

A student's quarter grade will consist of homework, tests, in-class assignments, quizzes, projects, and class participation. A student's quarter grade will be calculated by dividing the total points earned by total points possible. For example, if there were 950 possible points and Susan earned 879 in the marking period. The quarter grade would be  $879/950 = 93\%$ . All grades will be posted on parent portal in a timely manner.

Students are responsible for all missed work when absent from school due to an excused absence. Any previous assignments are due upon a student's return to school. Daily homework assignments are due the day after a student returns to school. Quizzes and tests must be made up within five days of a student's return to school.

### Classroom Management Plan

The classroom is an academic environment in which students participate to gain

further knowledge and insight for future success. Students will be held responsible for their actions. Misbehavior will not be tolerated. Any action deemed to prohibit any learning will not be acceptable. The result will be a phone call home informing parents/guardians of such behavior detrimental to the learning process. Learning starts with the proper attitude, which begins before classroom entry.

### Expectations

1. Be Here... Be Ready
2. Be Respectful
3. Be Responsible
4. Be Actively Engaged
5. Follow Instructions the First Time
6. Follow All Classroom Procedures

### Consequences

1. Verbal Warning
2. Student- Teacher Conference
3. Teacher Detention
4. Parent/ Guidance Contact
5. Code of Conduct Referral

### Extra Help

Extra help will be provided daily M-Th 3:05-3:25 unless there is a meeting scheduled.