



8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Science Syllabus – 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School  
545 Hill Street, S.E., Atlanta, GA 30312  
Ms. P. Dunac /Ms. A. Pendergrass



**Course Description:** Welcome back to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Science! Physical science is the study of matter and energy. Physical Science is designed to introduce the students to the study of basic chemistry and physics. The class is a laboratory class with many hands-on activities. The Georgia Performance Standards for Science requires that instruction be organized so that the Characteristics of Science and its Content are treated together, in order to have an enduring understanding of the science content. Parents and students may access the standards, in their entirety, on the Georgia Department of Education's website at <http://www.georgiastandards.org/science.aspx>.

**Second Semester Content Standards:**

S8P3 Students will investigate relationship between force, mass, and the motion of objects.

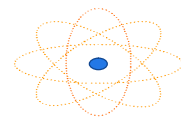
S8P4 Students will explore the wave nature of sound and electromagnetic radiation.

S8P5 Students will recognize characteristics of gravity, electricity, and magnetism as major kinds of forces acting in nature.

**Textbook:** *Georgia Physical Science: Prentice Hall Science Explorer* **Cost \$67.97**

**Our Goal:** Our goal this year will be 80% mastery of elements taught, with an emphasis on inquiry performance tasks.

**Our Motto:** Each One – Teach one – Reach One!



**Supplies:** Science note booking is an opportunity to enhance student understanding of science content and process skills. Everyday you should bring:

1. 2 – Pocket Sided Folders with paper holder in the middle
2. a spiral notebook
3. Ruler, pencils, erasers, scissors, glue, and pens (**blue or black only**)

**Expectations:** In this class, you are learning how to be a professional scientist. Therefore I expect the highest quality of work and behavior. We will both demonstrate professionalism through: being prepared, our conduct, organization, assignments and attention to procedures. These expectations apply to both of us. I will model and demonstrate professionalism and if I fail to meet your expectations let me know and I will do the same.

**Code of Conduct:** The class rules are designed to help us reach our goals and create a safe classroom environment. These are the first steps to success:

1. Be **RESPECTFUL**
2. Be **Responsible**
3. Be **Ready to Learn**

**Class Consequences:**

Positive ☺ Consequences:

- Positive Learning Environment
- Positive note or call home
- Class Store System *\*to be discussed*
- "Student of the Month" board



### Negative ☹ Consequences:

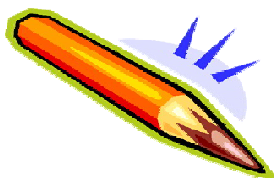
1. Phone call to your parents/guardians
2. Lose privileges
3. Detention
4. Parent Conference
5. Discipline Referral

### Grading:

Grading Scale:

110%-90%	→	A
89%-80%	→	B
79%-70%	→	C
69%-0%	→	F

Your grade in this class will be based on both formal and informal assessments:



Tests	25%
Quizzes	20%
Classwork/Participation	35%
Projects	10%
Homework	10%

**Tests:** Tests will be given after every unit to track your progress towards our Big Goal.

**Quizzes:** You will have two types of quizzes. One will be in the form of random notebook checks to check your organization and content and the other will be subject quizzes to prepare you for the Unit Exam.

**Labs:** Labs are an exciting way to apply the science we are learning to real life scenarios and experiments. All labs must be recorded in your composition book or lab folder and will be graded based on quality, content and answers.

**Participation:** In order to learn you must be engaged in class activities and lessons. Tardiness will result in the loss of participation points.

**Homework & Projects:** Homework will be given frequently to reinforce the objectives of the lesson taught. Projects are longer and will require more work and research. Both will be graded on both quality and correctness of work submitted.

**Late assignments** will be accepted as follows:

- |             |                          |                               |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 day late  | → Minus 10 points        | (for example: 100% to 90%)    |
| 2 days late | → Drop a letter grade    | (for example: from an A to B) |
| 3 days late | → Drop two letter grades | (for example: from an A to C) |

### Make-up Assignment Policy

Make-up assignments will be given for tests and only with a written excuse from the parent explaining the circumstances. This will ensure that the parent is aware of their child's situation, as well as give the teacher a legitimate reason for the student's absence. Make-up assignments will only be permitted on assigned days.

### Tutorial

Tutorial will be offered Wednesday from 4:00-4:45 p.m. Tutorial will be available for all students in the course. All students in jeopardy of failing the course are expected to attend. This will ensure that students will be able to receive one on one tutorial from the teacher. Parents must sign a tutorial slip giving permission for their child to attend the tutorial session.

### Science Fair Projects & Cumulative Projects

Students were expected to complete a science project for competition in the School Fair in December. The winners were announced and are expected to participate in the district level competition:

- Final Local Panel Evaluation of projects: TBA
- One-Fair Academic Award Ceremony: TBA

### Technology

Students will have to produce several assignments that will require word processing and use of different websites to enhance skills.

### Concept Based Units

In addition to special projects, students will be completing projects integrating the following concept- based units: **Conflict** – (3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks) and **Change** (4<sup>th</sup> 9 weeks).

**Please feel free to reach us anytime, as your child's success is significant!**

**How to reach us:**

**At School:**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School  
Attention: Ms. P. Dunac / Ms. A. Pendergrass  
545 Hill Street, S.E.,  
Atlanta, GA 30312  
(404) 802 – 5400  
Email: Ms. P. Dunac: [pdunac@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:pdunac@atlanta.k12.ga.us) or  
Ms. A. Pendergrass: [apendergrass@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:apendergrass@atlanta.k12.ga.us)

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Please sign and return this portion:

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and I understand the syllabus for my child. I will help ensure that my child can be successful in meeting these objectives.

\_\_\_\_\_ I request a conference for clarification.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date