Dutchtown Middle School
"Building Better Bulldogs"

8th Grade Physical Science
2014 - 2014

Teacher: Mrs. Tawana Black
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Tutorial Days: Tuesdays, Thursdays
Tutorial Hours: 7:20 – 8:20 am
Phone Number: (770) 515 - 7500

Department Philosophy:

By completion of the coursework for eighth grade science, students will have mastered the Georgia Performance Standards for physical science content and the nature of science. Students will: record, organize and interpret data, graphs, tables, chart interactions accurately, use proper units and analyze scientific data via calculation, observation and inference, recognize the importance of explaining data with precision and accuracy, apply safety techniques in labs, and use advanced technology in these applications.

Course Description:

Middle School physical science is designed to provide students with the basic knowledge and skills for proficiency in science at the high school level. It is designed to give all students an overview of common strands in physical science, as well as, connect reading, language arts, and math standards to give an overall connection between all content areas. The course is a hands-on, student centered, and inquiry based approach and should be the emphasis of instruction. Research and technology will be a major part of the instruction as well.

Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the following topics:

(1) Structure and properties of matter - develop models to describe the atomic composition of simple molecules and extended structures; gather and make sense of information to describe that synthetic materials come from natural resources and impact society and develops a model that predicts and describes change in particle motion, and temperature when energy is removed.

(2) Chemical reactions - analyze and interpret data on the properties of matter before and after to determine if a chemical reaction occurred; develop a model to illustrate conservation of matter.

(3) Forces and interactions – plan and conduct an investigation to provide evidence that object's motion depends on the sum of the forces; construct and present arguments to support the claim of gravitational interactions are attractive and depend on the masses of the interacting objects.

(4) Energy – construct and interpret graphical displays of data to describe the relationship of kinetic energy to the mass of an object and to the speed of an object; apply scientific principles to design, construct, and test a device that either minimizes or maximizes thermal energy transfer.

(5) Waves and electromagnetic radiation – use mathematical representations to describe a simple model for waves that includes how the amplitude of a wave is related to the energy in a wave; develop and use a model to describe waves that are reflected, absorbed, or transmitted through different materials; integrate

qualitative scientific and technical information to support the claim that digitized signals (wave pulses) are a more reliable way to encode.

Course Evaluation Categories:		**Grading Scale:**
Classwork	25%	**A –** 90 – 100
Assessments/Major Projects	30%	**B –** 80 – 89
Quizzes/Minor Projects	20%	**C –** 71 – 79
Semester Exam	15%	**D –** 70
Homework	10%	**F –** 69 & below

What are your Classroom /Behavior Expectations?

1. Respect school faculty and classmates.
2. Follow all school rules (i.e. no eating food or candy, no gum chewing, no cell phones & electronic devices unless allowed for instructional use, etc.).
3. Listen for and adhere to all directions the first time they are given.
4. When teacher raises hand, all students will stop, be quiet, raise hand, and await further instruction.
5. Students will not talk or leave seat without permission from the teacher. Students will not ask to leave the classroom for any reason other than a true emergency.

Expectations:

1. Come prepared for class every day. Be prepared with materials and assignments.
2. Be ready to learn and actively participate in classroom activities. ***Ask questions*** *if you do not understand materials presented in class.*
3. Complete all work in a timely manner.
4. Use the time provided in class wisely. Students will be given ample time in class to complete the majority of work. If class time is not used wisely, students will be at a disadvantage.
5. Study, study, study!

WHAT IS YOUR POLICY FOR LATE ASSIGNMENTS?

Each student is expected to complete all assignments in the allotted time. Late assignments are penalized, minus (11) points, each day the assignment is late after the original due date.

WHAT IS YOUR POLICY FOR MAKE-UP WORK?

IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO OBTAIN AND COMPLETE MAKE-UP WORK**.** All students are required to make up missed assignments after returning from an absence. Assignments should be completed within 10 days of an absence. Information about assignments completed during the absence may be obtained from the "What Did I Miss" section (in classroom), a fellow classmate, or through the teacher's website. Missed tests may be made up within one week of returning; an appointment must be set up with the teacher to complete the assignment. Make-up work must be done before or after school, ***NOT*** during valuable class time.

WHAT IS YOUR POLICY FOR MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS?

If a student turns in an assignment that receives a failing mark, the student has the opportunity to redo the assignment **ONCE**. Tests and quizzes are excluded. The student must conference with the teacher within one week after receiving the assignment. After conferencing, the assignment will be given back the assignment so that the student can redo and return within one week of the conference. Once the redo assignment is completed and corrected, it will be ***averaged*** with the original grade. It is the student's responsibility to take advantage of the redo policy. At the end of the marking period, students no longer have the option to redo assignments.

ACKOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT: By signing below, the student and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have read and understood the contents in the 2014-2015's 8th Grade Physical Science course syllabus.

****PLEASE SIGN & RETURN TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2014.****

Student Name (Print)_____ Date_____

Student Signature_____ Date_____

Student Email_____@_____

Parent Name (Print)_____ Date_____

Parent Signature_____ Date_____

Parent Email_____@_____

Parent Contact #_____ Alternate # _____