



HONORS INTEGRATED PHYSICAL SCIENCE (IPSH)
2009-2010 COURSE GUIDELINES
Ms. Tammy Fawcett
Room 508, 206-361-4372 x6853
tammy.fawcett@shorelineschools.org
<http://www.tcfawcett.com>

Course Description

Physical science is the study of the physical world. Everything in nature is governed by universal laws and we will learn about these laws in an integrated way. The purpose of this integrated approach to physical science is to gain a firm and comprehensive understanding of scientific principles by applying them to the physical world in which we live. This class is based on laboratory experiences that develop critical thinking skills and build a solid foundation for further study in science.

Course Objectives

The curriculum for this course is based upon *Conceptual Physical Science Explorations*, authored by Paul Hewitt, that engages students in laboratory testing and deductive reasoning while presenting students with basic scientific concepts and principles that are the foundation of scientific understanding. Major themes include: mechanics, atomic theory & basic chemistry, heat, waves (sound & light), geology, and astronomy.

The following **Essential Academic Learning Requirements** will serve as the foundation for this course:

1. **Concepts and Principles of Science** – Through the use and construction of models, the student will understand the basic systems which shape the physical and biological worlds and how these two worlds interact.
2. **Scientific Inquiry** – By planning and implementing scientific investigations, the student will learn to think logically, analytically, and creatively within the framework of the scientific method.
3. **Scientific Understanding** – Students will communicate scientific understanding through observation, oration, and the writing and organization of ideas. Technology will be used as a vehicle for student expression of scientific literacy.
4. **Scientific Connections** – In connecting science and math, science and technology, and science and society, the student will understand the relationship between science and other disciplines.

Course Requirements

1. Class participation (bring notebook & laptop daily and be prepared for lab investigations)
2. Active participation (including being present and on time to class)
3. Class notebook (which includes daily activities, labs, and notes) & scotch tape
4. Student laptop (bring to class daily with a full charge)
5. Homework readings and questions
6. Quality projects and formal lab reports
7. Regular quizzes, unit exams, and semester finals

Grading Procedure

Grades are based on a point system. The percentage of possible points you earn will determine your grade. The letter grade will be determined according to the following scale:

A	93-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%	F	<60%
A-	90-92%	B	83-87%	C	73-77%	D	60-66%		
		B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%				

The elements of this course will be weighted as follows:

- 40% Quizzes, exams, and finals
- 30% Course notebook
- 10% Discussion board submissions
- 15% Projects and formal reports
- 5% Class participation and preparation

****Please note:** Notebooks must be maintained regularly. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to ensure that all required notes, assignments, labs, and activities are in your notebook. *Your notebook is required for class daily* and the grade you receive for the notebook will be based on the work it contains at the time of evaluation. Missing work will receive no credit.

****Homework assignments** are announced in class, written on the board, and posted on-line. **NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED!** If you are absent, homework is due the day you return.

Academic & Behavior Expectations

- This class abides by the *Shorewood High School Discipline Code*, the *Shorewood Science Department Guidelines*, and the school district's *Acceptable Usage Policies* for laptops. All of these documents are available on your laptop in your IPS folder and from Ms. Fawcett's website.
- Restroom breaks are reserved for emergencies only. Use the restroom before or after class.
- All cell phones, audio devices (iPod, mp3 player, etc.), and headsets should be turned off and out of sight at all times during class. These items will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day.
- AT ALL TIMES during the class period, laptop use is reserved for work that is directly and immediately relevant to the classroom lesson at hand. In other words, no email, gaming, music, chatting, web surfing, working on assignments for other class, etc. Appropriate disciplinary measures will be taken for laptop use violations.
- Any student receiving a D or F in IPS will receive in-STAR detention with Ms. Fawcett for additional study time until the grade is raised.

Portfolio Submissions

Each semester you are expected to submit one piece of work from this class to your culminating exhibition portfolio. There are many choices for what to submit: tests, lab reports, pictures of projects, discussion board submissions, and/or any work that YOU feel is your best work at the time.

Need Extra Help?

Always ask for help when you need it! I am available after school each day and during STAR. Make an appointment to ensure I will be here or just stop by. I am always happy to talk to parents as well. Phone number and email are on the front of this sheet.

Parent or Guardian Signatures

I encourage parents or guardians to get a hold of me at anytime regarding your student's progress and I look forward to meeting you at the **Shorewood High School Open House on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 7:00 pm**. I am asking for a parent or guardian signature because I want you to be aware of what my expectations are for your student in my classroom and I want to ask your permission for your student to use a website called turnitin.com throughout the school year. It's a plagiarism prevention website that my classes use primarily for their online discussion board, but also for submitting papers a couple of times during the year. If you would like more information on the site, I'll be happy to provide that for you.

Yes, my student has permission to use the website turnitin.com for the duration of this class.

Parent/guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Student name (printed): _____