



HONORS INTEGRATED PHYSICAL SCIENCE (IPSH)

2011-12 COURSE GUIDELINES

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Course Description

Physical science is the study of the physical world. Universal laws govern everything in the physical world. We will learn about these laws in an integrated way in order to gain a firm and comprehensive understanding of 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, 2nd Edition*, authored by Paul Hewitt. This text engages students in laboratory testing and deductive reasoning while presenting students with basic scientific concepts and principles. These concepts and principles are the foundation of scientific understanding.

The state and district standards for this course are available on my website. However, the following **Essential Academic Learning Requirements** will serve as a foundation for this course:

1. **Scientific Systems** – Students will analyze and understand complex phenomena by making connections between and within scientific systems. At the high school level this involves relationships between emergent properties, unanticipated consequences, and feedback loops.
2. **Scientific Inquiry** – By planning and implementing scientific investigations, the student will learn to answer a scientifically oriented question. This includes: systematic observations, field studies, models and simulations, open-ended explorations, and controlled experiments.
3. **Scientific Application** – Students will be able to apply what they learn in school to meet challenges in their own lives, to understand and help solve societal problems involving science and technology, and contribute to the prosperity of their community, state, and nation.
4. **Domains of Physical Science** – Students will understand concepts relevant to the big ideas in Physical Science and Earth & space science. These big ideas are: forces and motion, properties and change of matter; energy transfer, transformation and conservation; Earth in space; Earth systems, structures and properties; and Earth history.

Course Requirements

1. Class participation – bring notebook & iPad daily and be prepared for lab investigations
2. Active participation – includes being present and on time to class
3. Class notebook and scotch tape – notebooks include daily activities, labs, and notes
4. Student iPad – bring to class daily with a full charge
5. Homework readings and questions. Homework may be assigned over a scheduled school break. These assignments, however, are rare.
6. Quality projects and formal lab reports. Projects and labs may be assigned in groups and may require outside of class time to complete. All projects are assigned far enough in advance to be completed before any scheduled school break. However, due dates for these projects may be after scheduled school breaks.
7. Regular quizzes, unit exams, and semester finals

Grading Procedure

Grades are based on a point system. The percentage of possible points you earn determines 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	15%	Projects and formal reports
35%	Course notebook	5%	Class participation and preparation
5%	Discussion board submissions		

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.* 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. Notebook grades are reduced by 15% each day the notebook is late.

Homework assignments are announced in class, written on the board, and posted on-line. LATE OR INCOMPLETE WORK IS HALF CREDIT! If you are absent, homework is due the day you return. Late homework may be turned in up to the exam date for that unit, otherwise no credit is given.

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 iPads*. All of these documents are available on your iPad in your IPS Resources folder and from Ms. Fawcett's website.
- The Shorewood High School Dress Code/Tardy/Electronics Policy included in the SW Student Handbook will be followed in this class. Upon the third tardy, the student's grade will drop to the next lower grade (A- to B+, for example). Attending the required detention will return the grade to normal.
- Restroom breaks are reserved for emergencies only. Use the restroom before or after class.
- AT ALL TIMES during the class period, iPad 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 iPad use violations.
- Any student receiving a D or F in IPSH may be required to attend an after school tutorial or Homework Club for additional help 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 simply stop by. I am always happy to talk to parents as well. My phone number and email are on the front of this sheet.

Parent or Guardian Signatures

I encourage parents or guardians to contact me anytime regarding your student's progress. I look forward to meeting you at the **Shorewood High School Open House on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 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. I also want to ask permission for your student to use a website called turnitin.com. It is a plagiarism prevention website that my classes use primarily for their online discussion board, but also for submitting papers during the year. If you would like more information on the site, I will 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): _____