

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Science

## Mr. Koerger

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*Show me something, and I will forget it.  
Tell it to me, and I might remember.  
But let me do a thing, and it will be mine forever.*

### **Course Summary**

This class is about doing science! Exploring phenomena of the natural world from the perspective of a scientist brings new knowledge and understanding. Reason and logic, trial and error, hypothesis and experiment, observation and manipulation all play a vital part in furthering your comprehension of the physical sciences.

### **Course Requirements**

#### Participation

Much of your class and lab time will be spent working in lab or on individual or group assignments. Participation with the experiments you are working on is vital to your understanding of the concepts being taught. Participation during class discussions is equally critical. All scientists ask questions about what they're working on; so must you. If you are having trouble figuring something out, ask! I probably will not give you the answer, but I'll try to steer you in the right direction.

#### Materials

You must bring all required materials to class. At the very minimum, this includes your notebook and a pencil, but it will often include your textbook, a ruler, a calculator, etc.. You are advised and **expected** to have those materials with you or in your locker for any given science class; the excuse, "I didn't know I would need it" is not acceptable.

#### Homework

Homework will be assigned at the end of each class period based on the results of that day's work. Because of the dynamic nature of this class, getting homework early (like before a vacation) is usually not possible. Pay attention to due dates, as homework assignments will often overlap. You should expect to have homework from science after nearly every class.

#### Late Homework

It is crucial for homework to be completed and turned in on time as you will very often need the results from your work in class to proceed. *Therefore, in accordance with the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade policy late homework will not be accepted for credit.* If you are unable to complete a homework assignment on time, you *may* use one of your two Late Passes to turn in the homework by the following Monday. The homework passes are for daily homework assignments only. Projects or larger assignments can be turned in late but 10 percentage points will be subtracted from your score for each day or portion thereof that it is turned in late. Again, incomplete homework may severely inhibit your ability to participate during class, making the lab more difficult (or even impossible). Avoid this trap.

## Grading

Grading will be broken down as follows.

Item	Percent of Grade
Quizzes and Tests	25%
Homework	25%
Lab & Class Participation	30%
Projects	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Quizzes and Tests

Tests will be given periodically. Limited class time will be spent reviewing for the test, so studying at home is essential for success. Quizzes will be given occasionally to ensure students understand the material adequately. This includes the occasional "pop" quiz.

### Homework

Homework will be assigned based on the textbook and other sources of information. Internet browsing capabilities may be required (accommodations will be made for those not having Internet access at home). It is important to understand that in order to get the most out of a lab activity, you must have completed the homework from the previous lab. **If you do not have your homework completed, you may be asked to complete that work during class and then make up the lab at another time.**

### Projects

Projects, reports, and presentations are part of the scientific process. Individual and group projects will be an important measure of your understanding of the material, and may be vital in supporting other classroom activities. Projects turned in late are graded down.

### Lab & Class Participation

You will be periodically graded on your involvement and contributions during labs and class discussions. This will also include credit for coming to class prepared with all the necessary materials. Sitting back and letting others do the work is **not acceptable** (see the quote at the beginning of this syllabus).

Please share this information with your parents and have them sign on the line below. I welcome any questions. I can be reached during school hours at (253) 620-8420 or by e-mail (preferred) at [akoerger@charleswright.org](mailto:akoerger@charleswright.org). My cell phone number is 206-387-8387. Homework questions by e-mail will be answered as quickly as possible, but please allow a reasonable amount of time for a response.

More information about this course, along with helpful links (including links to your grades) can be found at <http://www.koerger.com>.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_