

Physical Science A Syllabus
2011-2012 School Year Second Semester
Miss Gurganus

Course Description/Overview:

This course is a laboratory course consisting of fundamental concepts of chemistry. Students will be involved in many hands-on activities. Mastery of the topics will be demonstrated by a combination of tests, lab activities, and problem-solving. This course is designed to prepare students to be successful in Biology and Chemistry and on the science portion of the Michigan Merit Examination. The course will also prepare the students to continue in the life-long learning process, whether they plan to attend college or enter the workforce directly after high school.

Class Binder/Folder and Notes:

Each student must bring a Physical Science A class binder or folder to class each day to organize papers for this class.

The class binder (1" or 1½" recommended) or folder must be brought to class by **Tuesday, January 31, 2012**. It will be collected on that day and evaluated for 3 points.

The class binder/folder should be labeled on the front (in any school-appropriate way the student chooses) with the **student's full name** (first and last), class name (**Physical Science A**), **class hour**, and teacher's name (**Miss Gurganus**).

What should be kept in the binder/folder?

1. a spiral notebook for notes (provided by Miss Gurganus OR by the student) which will contain dated notes and written work for each class day (even for days when the student is absent)
2. this class syllabus
3. Student Safety Contract
4. the illustrated lab equipment handout
5. labs
6. other handouts, homework, charts, and worksheets

Recommended tab labels (if using dividers) include **Rules, Homework/Classwork, and Labs & Projects**.

If a student chooses not to provide a binder or folder, a binder or folder will be provided for him/her that will be returned to the school at the end of the semester.

****Keep your binder organized every day!****

Course Content:

Topics studied in Physical Science A include chemical/lab safety, physical science, the scientific method, measurement using SI, lab report writing, variables, constants, control groups, lab experiment design, problem-solving, composition of matter, properties, changes, mixtures, separation, identification, the periodic table, the Bohr model, valence electrons,

types of bonds, the kinetic theory, states of matter, types of solids, thermal expansion, changes of state, line graphs, and density.

Textbook: *Foundations of Physical Science with Earth and Space Science*, 2nd edition
(Delta Education/CPO, 2007)

Students participate in laboratory activities approximately once every two weeks.

Each quarter ends with a laboratory project.

Guidelines for Success:

Successful students in Physical Science A . . .

- come to class prepared each day, bringing a binder, notebook, and writing utensil
- have a positive attitude about science
- believe they can be successful in science if they put in enough effort
- realize mistakes are part of the learning process
- respect the hazards of chemicals and take safety procedures very seriously
- set aside 30 minutes each night for science homework or to study science
- use a binder/folder and agenda planner to stay organized
- have the necessary resources at home to do science assignments (blue or black ink pens, pencils, paper, and colored pencils/crayons/markers)
- are willing to work hard and try every day
- ask for help, come in for help, and borrow resources as needed

Extra Help and Absence Assignment Make-up Times:

Miss Gurganus is available **before school (6:30 - 7:25 am) and after school (2:50 - 4:00 pm) on Mondays and Thursdays**. Students may come in at those times for extra help or to complete missed work.

Classroom Rules:

Each student is to . . .

BE SAFE:

- follow all safety guidelines and procedures.
- follow all Lincoln High School rules.

BE RESPONSIBLE:

- arrive at class each day and on time. When the bell rings, each student should be in his/her seat, ready to learn.
- come to class prepared. Pencil/pen, agenda planner, class spiral notebook, and class binder/folder should be brought to class every day. Pencils and pens may be borrowed for collateral.
- conduct himself/herself responsibly, courteously, and considerately at all times.

BE RESPECTFUL:

- be attentive. When the teacher is talking, students should be listening.
- leave distractions outside the classroom. Coats, hats, cosmetics, food, beverages, grooming supplies, phones, personal electronics, and music do not belong in class. Leave them in lockers, in bags, or at home.

Activities:

Students in Physical Science A listen to lectures, take notes, do worksheets, write lab reports, do laboratory exercises/experiments, discuss ideas with other students, take quizzes, take tests, do class work/homework, use resource books to research information, and give presentations.

Grades:

Grades will be determined by a combination of traditional paper-and-pencil activities and laboratory work.

Traditional paper-and-pencil activities -- 50% of the quarter's grade

Points come from:

- **homework.** Homework is due at the beginning of class.
- **class work.** Occasionally assignments will be completed during class.
- **the class binder/folder and notes.** These are to be kept up-to-date and neat at all times. Your binder/folder and notes will be collected and checked for points during every test. They must be brought to class every day!
- **tests and quizzes.** Tests will be given approximately every two weeks. Quizzes may occur occasionally.

Laboratory work and lab projects -- 50% of the quarter's grade

Points come from:

- **laboratory problems designed by the teacher.**
- **INDEPENDENT PROJECTS.** An independent project is a test of problem-solving skills that a student does with little help from the teacher. The projects include typed reports, labs designed with no help from the teacher, and oral presentations.

***** Students will **not** be allowed to work with any chemicals until they have signed the safety contract (along with a parent/guardian), passed the safety quiz (with at least 80%), and completed the required pre-lab. **Labs missed due to the student not meeting these requirements may not be made up.**

***** Because independents projects are done with a partner and take from 6 to 8 class days to complete, they are very difficult for students to make up if they are absent.

Grades for each quarter are calculated according to the following categories:

Tests and quizzes.	35%
Labs.	35%
Independent Projects.	15%
Class work, binder/folder/notes, and homework. . . .	15%

Please note that if the school or district implements a different grading policy by changing the categories or percents, that new grading policy will be used in place of this one.

For the semester grade, the percentages of the first and second quarters will be averaged with the semester exam in the following way:

Third quarter grade.....	40%
Fourth quarter grade.....	40%
Semester exam.....	<u>20%</u>
Semester grade.....	100%

Twenty-five percent (25%) of each semester exam grade will be a laboratory project.

Grades will then be assigned according to the scale below:

100% - 93%	A	76% - 73%	C
92% - 90%	A-	72% - 70%	C-
89% - 87%	B+	69% - 67%	D+
86% - 83%	B	66% - 63%	D
82% - 80%	B-	62% - 60%	D-
79% - 77%	C+	Below 60%	E

Please note that if the school or district implements a different grading scale, that new scale will be used in place of this one.

In order to receive credit (a passing grade) for a semester, two of the three course components (first quarter, second quarter, and semester exam) must be passed with at least sixty percent.

Classroom Procedures

Entering the Classroom:

Students are expected to enter the classroom and go directly to their seats. Students should be seated before the bell rings.

Tardy to Class:

A student is tardy if he/she is not in the classroom when the bell rings. See the student handbook for penalties for frequent tardiness.

Paper/Pencils:

For most assignments, tests, quizzes, and homework, any writing utensil may be used (pencil, pen, marker, etc.). For lab reports, students must use a (dark) blue or black ink pen. Each student is provided with one spiral notebook to use for notes and assignments.

If a student arrives to class without a writing utensil, he/she should either give Miss Gurganus collateral to trade for one OR check the free cup on the front counter. Sheets of lined paper are also provided on the front counter for students who do not bring their own.

How to Find Out What the Daily Assignments Are:

Each night's assignment is written on the board each day. A monthly calendar of assignments is kept in the front of the classroom. Class assignments are also listed on Miss Gurganus's web site:

<http://web.lincoln.k12.mi.us/buildings/hs/gurganus> (or missgurganus.com)

It is the student's responsibility to keep track of what he/she has missed and what he/she needs to make up.

Agenda planners should be used to keep track of homework and assignment due dates.

Turning In Assignments:

Homework is to be turned in to the In Box on the front counter either before class begins or when Miss Gurganus asks for it.

Returning Assignments to Students:

Assignments are returned to students as they are graded. They are either handed to students directly or placed on their desks.

Finding Out Grade Status:

Students and parents may check PowerSchool for the most updated grade status.

Student Responsibilities After an Absence:

It is the student's responsibility to keep track of which day(s) he/she has missed. **Do not ask me for a list of days absent. Use your agenda planner to record these or check your attendance in PowerSchool!**

After a student has looked at the assignment calendar and/or website, a student should ask the teacher on the day he/she returns from an absence for any assignment papers missed.

Excused absences:

Assignments may be made up for full credit ONLY IF THE **OFFICE** EXCUSES THE ABSENCE(S) IN POWERSCHOOL. In general, for every day missed and excused, the assignment's due date is extended one day. Missed class notes should be obtained from fellow classmates; notes are not available from Miss Gurganus (but are available on her website).

Unexcused absences:

If an absence is unexcused by the office, the work may not be made up for credit. A student with an unexcused absence receives a zero for all work that occurred that day, was due that day, and was assigned that day.

Missed tests, quizzes, and group/lab work:

If a student misses a lab, test, quiz, or group work, it must be made up before or after school. Class time will **not** be used to make up missed assignments. Students have one week from the date of the lab, test, quiz, or group work to make up the assignment.

Late, Missing, or Incomplete Assignments:

Students have **one extra day** to turn in most assignments. If the assignment is turned in a day late, the grade earned will be dropped 10%. Assignments will not be accepted after that.

Binder/folder/notes checks may not be completed late; if you don't have them at a check, you receive a zero.

Students have one week from the date of a missed test, quiz, or lab to complete the assignment.

Communication Procedures With Parents/Guardians:

A weekly e-mail is sent out to parents who request it each Monday evening.

The best way to reach me is by e-mail. The best times to reach me by phone are before 7:00 am and after 4:00 pm.

TEACHER CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone number: (734) 484-7000 extension 7655 [I have 24-hour voice mail]
E-mail address: gurganus@lincolnk12.org [best way to contact me!]
Web site URL: <http://web.lincoln.k12.mi.us/buildings/hs/gurganus>
(or missgurganus.com) [website updated daily]
Mailing address: Lincoln High School, 7425 Willis Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Ending Class:

When the bell rings and students are seated, the teacher dismisses the class. If all students are not seated, the class waits for all students to be seated, and then the class is dismissed.

On lab days, ten minutes will be given for clean-up, signatures, and washing hands. Passes will not be written for students who take longer than ten minutes to clean up.

Consequences for Classroom Rule Violations:

Failure to follow one of the above policies or procedures will usually result in a warning. If the infraction is repeated or is very serious, one or more of the following can be expected:

- change of seat assignment
- time spent in the hall
- phone call home
- referral to the office

****Violating a lab safety rule may result in permanent removal from the course****