**Mr. White’s Physical Science Syllabus-Fall 2016**

1st Block Plan

Phone number: 933-3434

E-mail address: vann.white@knoxschools.org

Room number: 382

**COURSE OUTCOME:**

**Course Description:** This course provides the physical science unit needed to meet the minimum requirements for graduation for students entering high school Fall 2008 or prior. The primary theme for Physical Science is the study of matter and energy. The course is designed to introduce students to the concepts of forces and motion, chemical and physical properties of matter, the ways in which matter and energy interact, the forms and properties of energy, and other basic concepts in chemistry and physics. (Prerequisites: Fundamental level is based upon a combination of standardized test scores, past performance in science, teacher recommendations, and established enrollment limits.) This course includes preparation for the county EOC.

* **Standards:** Curriculum standards can be viewed at <http://science.knoxschools.org/modules/locker/files/group_files.phtml?gid=498766&parent=3928834&sessionid=b79dc63ee171fe5f9758c2572935c364> then click on Physical Science. Also, they are posted in the classroom.

**INSTRUCTION:**

**Topics:**  Matter, Energy, Motion, Forces in Nature

* **General Pacing:**  Nature of Science (6 days), Motion & Speed (5 days), Forces (5 days), Energy (4 days), Work & Machines (5 days), Thermal Energy (3 days), Electricity (3 days), Waves, Sound, & Light (6 days), Solids, Liquids, & Gases (9 days), Classification of Matter (6 days), Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table (7 days), Chemical Bonding & Reactions (10 days), Elements & their properties (5 days), Nuclear Fusion & Fission (1 day), Acids & Bases (2 days), EOC Review (2 days)
* **Materials Needed:**  3 ring binder, 5 dividers, blue or black pen, red pen, pencil, & loose leaf paper
* **Text:** Physical Science textbook(Provided by School)
* **Fees:** There is a $15 fee for this class. It includes lab chemicals, food (for models), and paper products.
* **Safety Procedures:** A lab safety agreement will be discussed and must be signed by the student and parent/guardian before the student will be able to do labs.

**ASSESSMENT:**

* **Expectations/Skills/Competencies:**

This course is utilized for the benefit of preparing the student for graduation. Students are expected to complete assignments and keep track of their performance. Assignments are very important and require planning on your part. There will be out of class and in class writing assignments and exams will have essay questions.

* **Grading Policy/Rubrics:** A 93-100 B 85-92 C 75-84 D 70-74 F 0-69
* **Explanation of Assignments & Projects – Grades will be determined based on the following point system.**

Tests~100-150 points each; Quizzes~20-30 points each; Labs~20-100 points each; Projects~100-300 points each; Notebook~200 points; Journal~5 points each; Worksheets & Activities ~20-80 points each; Articles(current event)~25 points each: The Average of these grades equal 75% of your final grade. The End-of-Coarse (EOC) = 25% of your final grade.

**Homework:** Work not completed during class time will be homework. We will work on current events in class.

**CURRENT EVENTS:** The current event write-up must be turned in with at least two paragraphs 1 full page in length written by you. The first (1/2 page) is a summary of the article in your own words and the second (1/2 page) is your opinion on the article. (Example: How does the article affect you personally? Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not? How does the article make you feel?).

**Literacy is a school-wide goal this year. Therefore, we will be reading current event science articles, short answer and essay questions on tests, reading aloud, and having reading discussions.**

**The EOC is a statewide exam and the date it will be administered will be discussed in class. Remember that this will count 25% of your final class average.**

**Explanation of Notebook:** You will need to get a three ring notebook (1 or 2 inch) and dividers. You need to divide the notebook into the following five sections:

1. Agenda
2. Notes
3. Daily Activities
4. Projects (include all materials used for research) and Articles
5. Graded Material

**Make-Up Work Policy:** All make-up work is the responsibility of the student. If the student is absent it is his/her responsibility to check to see what he/she missed. Make-up tests and quizzes should be taken care of before or after school. A student has one week upon return to class from the missed test/quiz or assignment to make it up before the grade becomes a zero. Specific details will be discussed in class.

**Re-do Policy:** The re-do policy applies to attempted work, not to be confused with missing work. If a student feels the need to re-do an assignment he/she will have the opportunity. A re-done assignment will have a maximum value of 90%. Before being allowed to re-do an assignment the student must first have tutoring of some type, this will be at teacher discretion. The assignment may not be exactly like the original assignment and must be done outside of regular class time (such as during one hour lunch, before school, or after school). There are a few exclusions to this re-do policy, such as: EOCs, labs, or any other assignment specified by the teacher.

***December Dash***

A student must have an average of 65-69.4 and have passed the EOC to be eligible for Dash.

* Students who are eligible for Dash must complete an application to participate in the Dash program.

*In compliance with our CHS Re-do Policy, students will not have the opportunity to re-take the EOC.*

***BLITZ***

* A student must have an average of 65-69.4 and have passed the EOC to be eligible for Blitz.
* Students who are eligible for BLITZ must complete an application to participate in the BLITZ program.

*In compliance with our CHS Re-do Policy, students will not have the opportunity to re-take the EOC.*

**SEATING:** Seating charts will be made so sit in your assigned seat only. If you are not in your assigned seat, you will not be counted present in class for that day. Attendance is taken based on empty seats.

**HEADINGS:** A heading shall be placed on every assignment submitted for a grade. Use the following: NAME, DATE, TITLE, & CLASS PERIOD above the top line. **A 5 point deduction** will be made on assignments without this heading.

* **Portal Post Policy – Teacher Commitment to Post Grades to Portal *at least* once per week.**

**For Example:**

In order to give timely feedback, I will update grades at least once per week.

**GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:**

* **Students:**
* **Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend class every day. However, if they are absent they are expected to make up the work missed. It is very important not to be absent for Labs. Most labs cannot be made up because of the nature of the experiment or material availability.
* **Classroom Policy/Procedures:**
1. Be on time with book, paper, pencil, and homework. This means that you are **in your seat and ready to go when the tardy bell rings (otherwise you are tardy)!**
2. Don’t disturb other students who are trying to learn. Talking when instruction is being given should not occur. Be respectful.
3. Do not mark on any furniture, lab equipment, or other items in the classroom. If you mark on them you will get to clean them!
4. **Follow all lab safety rules. Failure to do so could result in not participating in lab activities!**
5. No eating or drinking in class. There are no exceptions to this rule.
6. No bathroom breaks will be given the first 15 minutes of class. Also, no breaks will be given the last 15 minutes of class. You will only be given 6 passes to leave class per semester, so use your passes wisely. You will not be allowed to use another student’s passes. Also, if you do not have your passes with you in class you will not be allowed to go.
7. Stay in your seat until the bell rings to end class. Failure to follow this rule results in all students staying after class.
8. No electronic devices or cell phones of any kind will be permitted during class! Any electronic device used during class will result in the device being impounded.
* **Tardy Consequences:** Every time you are tardy you will sign the tardy log and serve tardy detention. If you choose not to complete your tardy detention you will be assigned ISS or another punishment deemed appropriate by an administrator.
* **Honor Code:**  If a test is copied or a project is not properly cited the result will be a zero for that assignment. If another type of assignment is copied in any way, unless it is partner work, the grade will be split between the students. For example, if two students copy each other’s work and the work receives 100% both students will receive 50% instead after a 10% reduced grade for the assignment.
* **Teacher:**
* **Communication Strategy:**  The best way to communicate with me is through email. I check email daily. My email address is vann.white@knoxschools.org.
* **Open Disclosure/Parent Notification**
* **Intervention Strategy – tutoring, extra help, etc.**
* **PLAGIARISM**

 **According to Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition:**

 **Plagiarism is defined as “presenting someone else’s ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased.”**

**It includes, but is not limited to the following:**

 **1. Copying verbatim all or part of another’s written work;**

 **2. Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;**

 **3. Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source;**

**4. Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.”**

* **CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accepting a grade letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents should be involved in making the decision.

**Religion in the Curriculum**

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion—and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective and respectful manner in accordance with the following:

1. Music, art, literature, or drama with a religious theme or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
2. The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature and history shall be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies shall never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs; and
3. Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to express religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech and debate.

**By signing this page, I indicate that I agree to uphold each of Mr. White’s classroom rules without fail. I understand that if I break any of these rules, I will receive the aforementioned consequences. If there has been none outlined, I will receive comparable and fair consequences. I also agree to abide by the details outlined in the “Course Requirements” and strive to be prepared and willing to learn for each class period.**

**Student Name (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**By signing this page, I indicate that I agree to enforce Mr. White’s classroom rules with my child, without fail. I understand that if my child should break any of these rules, he/she will receive the aforementioned consequences. I also agree to help my child (in any way that I can) to abide by the details outlined in the “Course Requirements” and to be prepared as directed for each class period (i.e. providing him/her with supplies, etc.).**

**Parent Name (PRINT):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent preferred form of contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_E-mail \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Mail**

**Parents, please provide your preferred form of contact info (i.e. email address, phone number, etc.) and any additional information you feel would be beneficial in the area below:**

**Thank you very much for your cooperation! I look forward to working with your child this semester. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or questions about your child or something we are doing in the classroom. Vann.white@knoxschools.org**

 **Sincerely,**

 **Mr. White**