

# LHS Physical Science 2025–26

## Instructor

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## Course Overview

Physical Science is a foundational course for 10th-grade students that introduces the core principles of **chemistry and physics**. This class emphasizes hands-on learning, scientific thinking, and ACT preparation through experimentation, inquiry, and application of real-world phenomena. Topics will include:

1. **Scientific Inquiry and Measurement**
2. **Properties of Matter and Atomic Structure**
3. **Chemical Reactions and Bonding**
4. **Forces and Motion**
5. **Work, Energy, and Simple Machines**
6. **Waves, Sound, and Light**
7. **Electricity and Magnetism**

## Materials Needed

- Folder labeled with student name and class period
- Notebook or 3-ring binder with lined paper
- Pencils, erasers, black/blue pens, and highlighter
- Scientific calculator (recommended)
- School-issued iPad (charged daily)
- **Textbook:** *Glencoe Physical Science* (2005) — classroom copy

## Course Goals

Students will:

- Apply the scientific method to real-world problems
- Analyze and interpret data to support scientific claims
- Understand matter, energy, motion, and forces at a conceptual level
- Perform experiments and lab activities with safety and accuracy
- Use formulas and problem-solving skills to calculate and predict physical behavior
- Make connections between physical science and daily life
- Build collaborative and critical thinking skills through lab work and discussion

## **Class Requirements**

- **Attendance:** Be present—physically and mentally
- **Attitude:** Stay positive and persistent
- **Application:** Show what you've learned by using it
- **Participation:** Take part in labs, discussions, and classwork

## **F.O.C.U.S. – How We Stay on Track in This Classroom**

### **F – Follow Directions**

Listen carefully. Ask questions if you're unsure. Start tasks promptly.

### **O – Own Your Effort**

Do your best, even when it's hard. Take responsibility for your learning.

### **C – Come Prepared**

Bring your materials, complete assignments, and be ready to learn.

### **U – Use Time Wisely**

Stay on task. Limit distractions. Make the most of your work time.

### **S – Support Each Other**

Encourage classmates. Work together and celebrate progress.

## **Behavior Expectations**

- Do your best and ask for help when you need it
- Be respectful to your peers, teachers, and environment
- Disruptive or unkind behavior will result in consequences
- Students are responsible for their actions and must be ready to rejoin the learning community after conflict

## **Grading Policy**

- **Grading Scale:** Follows LPS district-wide guidelines
- **Quarter Breakdown**
  - Tests – 35%
  - Projects/Labs – 35%
  - Classwork – 30%
- **Semester Grade Breakdown**
  - Q1: 45% | Q2: 45% | Final Exam: 10%
  - Q3: 45% | Q4: 45% | Final Exam: 10%

## Late Work Policy

- Full credit for work submitted on time
- Up to **80% credit** if submitted within 24 hours
- Up to **50% credit** if more than 48 hours late
- Work must be submitted **by 7:59 AM** or it's considered a new late day
- Communicate early for special circumstances

## Accountability

- Points may be deducted for behavior issues, missed deadlines, or plagiarism
- Most work is graded **Sunday evenings**; weekly grade checks occur **Monday during 2nd period**

## Plagiarism & Cheating

- Will result in consequences as outlined in the **Student Code of Conduct**
- Includes use of unauthorized AI-generated work

## Absences

- You are responsible for gathering and completing missed work
- **Pick up handouts at the front desk** upon return
- **Pre-arranged absences**: Notify the teacher early; work is due before the absence
- Missed labs must be completed within **3 school days**
- For illness/injury: Two days per day absent, all work due within five days per school handbook
- Extended family trips = article packet to complete for participation credit

## Google Calendar Use

- Strongly recommended
- Helps students manage deadlines, major projects, and school events
- Update weekly

## Classroom Guidelines

1. **Phones, Smartwatches, Headphones**
  - Must be off and stored in backpacks (placed on east wall)
  - Visible use = confiscation until end of day
  - Repeated abuse = detention or point loss
  - Smartwatch misuse = put away immediately
2. **Tardiness**

- Be inside the room when the bell rings
- Late? Enter quietly and start working
- 3. **Restroom Use**
  - Not permitted during lectures, discussions, or labs
  - Use during passing periods
- 4. **iPad Charging**
  - iPads must arrive fully charged, part of being responsible
- 5. **Extracurricular Involvement**
  - Strongly encouraged
  - Linked to improved academic success
- 6. **Reading Requirement**
  - Carry a **library book** daily
  - Reading time will be provided during transitions
- 7. **Classroom Entry**
  - Use **Door 107** from the 100 Hall
- 8. **Bell-to-Bell Learning**
  - Stay on task through dismissal
  - Only students with outside classes may pack up early
- 9. **Office Hours**
  - Mr. Pack is available most days from **7:15–7:45 AM** and **3:25–4:00 PM**
  - Preferred contact: **email**, but phone calls are acceptable