

Physical Science Syllabus

Instructor: Leandri Laas
Office Hours: M-F 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Office: 1400 Minuteman Drive
E-mail: leandri.laas@lexschools.org

TEXT: Physical Science Concepts in Action

DESCRIPTION:

This course will help students gather, analyze, and communicate evidence as they formulate answers to questions about current topics that includes: forces and interactions, waves and electromagnetic radiation, structure and properties of matter, energy, chemical reactions, space systems, weather and climate, and earth's systems.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Instruction in this class will focus on the Nebraska State Science Standards.

SC.HS.1.1 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of forces and interactions.

SC.HS.2.2 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of the interaction of waves.

SC.HS.3.3 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of the structure, properties, and interactions of matter.

SC.HS.4.4 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of the interactions of energy.

SC.HS.5.5 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of chemical reactions.

SC.HS.11.1 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence to defend that the universe changes over time.

SC.HS.12.2 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence to support that Earth's climate and weather are influenced by energy flow through Earth's systems.

SC.HS.13.3 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence to defend the position that Earth's systems are interconnected and impact one another.

SC.HS.15.5 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence to describe the interactions between society, environment, and economy.

These can be found at <https://www.education.ne.gov/science/>

SUGGESTED REQUIREMENTS:

- Colored pencils & pens (blue or black)
- Ruler
- Calculator
- Access to Internet outside of school
- Access to computer paper and printer outside of school
- 3-Ring binder
- Notebook paper

EXPECTATIONS:

1. Come to class **prepared** for the day.
2. Follow all safety rules and procedures. ALL MANDATORY PPE MUST BE WORN!
3. Physical sciences is a “doing” subject - actively take part in discussions and labs.
4. Show respect for school policies, rules, each other and the teacher.
5. Make good use of your study time....avoid procrastination.
6. Do your best every day; strive to achieve your full potential.
7. **NO** candy, gum, drinks, or food in class.
8. Backpacks will be left in the hallway during lab sessions. (It is a safety hazard)
9. **NO** earbuds/headphones etc... will be allowed in class.
10. **NO** cellphones will be allowed, they are switched **OFF** and put away.
11. **NO** electronic devices (such as earbuds, smartwatches, etc...) other than iPads will be allowed at desks or be worn during exams.
12. Complete **ALL** classroom and laboratory assignments on time. Assignments are due at the **START** of class the day they are due.
13. Papers not turned in at the **due date/time** will be considered late and receive 0 credit. Students that fail to turn in work on time will be expected to stay after school THAT DAY or come early THE NEXT MORNING to complete late assignments to receive 50% credit. Late work turned in after 24 hours will receive a maximum of 40% credit. If parental contact must be made, a maximum of 35% will be given.
14. **STUDENTS** are responsible for **ALL** missed work, notes, and assignments, due to illness or any other absence.
15. Class work may consist of lecture notes, daily or vocabulary quizzes, labs, exams, discussions, or combinations of these.
16. Unannounced quizzes **CANNOT** be made-up.
17. Daily quizzes/questions must be completed during class or as assigned. If you are absent, please refer to the absence policy below.

CHEATING/PLAGIARISM:

Cheating or plagiarism will **NOT** be tolerated. Each student is responsible for doing his or her own work. Students who violate this policy will be subject to receiving a zero (0) for the assignment or test, quiz, or examination, etc., and MAY face additional disciplinary action. Students who continue to cheat or plagiarize may be subject to further discipline. Use of AI generated material is **NOT** allowed and will be counted as cheating. Please follow the guidelines and definitions as written in the Student Code of Conduct.

ATTENDANCE:

It is very important to maintain steady attendance; many of the concepts discussed will be building blocks for concepts discussed later. Please refer to your student handbook for the attendance policy. 1 tardy = 1/2 hour detention. After detention being missed on the third day, the student will be referred to ISS.

EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated based on your performance on:

Quarter (45%) + Quarter (45%) + Sem Final (10%) = 100% Semester

Quarter grades are calculated by:

- Tests and quizzes - **50%**
- Labs and projects - **35%**
- Daily practice - **15%**

CLASS WORK AND DISCIPLINE:

Class work/practice may consist of lecture notes, daily or vocabulary quizzes, labs, exams, discussions, or combinations of these. Students may receive points each day for meeting the expectations of the course. If students do not meet the expectations of the class, they can lose points and/or receive detention. If students are absent, they lose all points for that day's practice/expectations until the student has made up all the work done in class that day. Students that fail to bring a computer to class will still be expected to participate in class and lectures. Students are expected to follow school guidelines and rules. Failure to do so may result in detention or referral to office for further discipline. Please refer to your Student Handbook for detentions and guidelines.

LABS:

Students **MUST** participate in **ALL** labs. If students feel they cannot perform a lab, they should talk to the teacher so the teacher can plan an alternate lab. Students receive points for participating in a lab, which is counted as a lab grade. Students are expected to follow safety rules as outlined in the safety contract and according to lab procedures. Violations of safety procedures may result in loss of points, dismissal from the lab with 0 points, detention, or dismissal from class.

GRADING:

Grades will be based on the LHS grade scale.

IF YOU ARE ABSENT:

GENERAL ABSENCES: Illness or other unplanned absence

Get a General Absence Form and follow the directions:

1. All labs must be made up (WITHIN 2 DAYS due to loss of materials) before or after school. (No exceptions!)
2. Come in before or after school to ask the teacher what you have missed.
3. If you miss a TEST, it is the STUDENT'S responsibility to arrange to make up the test. TESTS must be made up in **2 days**.

Tests missed due to activities/pre-excused must be taken prior to their absence. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A LOSS OF 10% FROM TEST SCORE FOR EACH DAY AFTER THE TEST IS GIVEN!

4. It is the student's responsibility to turn in all make-up work as soon as possible. (follow the 2 days rule- 2 days to make up the work for each day of absence.)
5. Turn in any assignment that was due for the day(s) absent. Failure to do so will result in a '0' for the assignment after which a maximum of 50% is achievable. Students that fail to make up or arrange a time for daily quizzes within 2 days of returning will not be given the opportunity to do so after the time limit.
6. If the student has a pre-excused absence (other than activities), they need to ask for the assignments in advance and hand assignments in before leaving.

Failure to do so will result in the student receiving a '0' for the assignment, after which a maximum of 50% is achievable.

DECLARATION OF ACCOUNTABILITY

By signing this paper the student agrees to be held accountable for all the expectations and rules set forth in this syllabus for Mrs. Laas' Physical Science class. Violations of rules will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct.

Take this syllabus home and go over it with your parents. After you and your parents have carefully read it and understand it, please sign and return it.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS: If your child falls behind with his/her classwork, you will be contacted. If your child causes repeated problems in class, you will be contacted and asked to come in for a meeting to resolve this issue.

Failure to sign and return this does not preclude the student from the expectations set forth.

Student: _____ (print)

Student: _____ (sign) Date: _____

Parent/Guardian _____ (print)

Parent/Guardian _____ (sign)