



**Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Physical Science  
Ms. McNutt  
Room 207**

Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Science! I look forward to getting to know each of you as we explore the world of physical science together. We have an exciting semester of chemistry and physics to explore. In order to start the year off right, I would like to provide you with some information on the goals and expectations for our class.

Here is a list of what you will need for this class:

<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science</b>	Student Planner: (Available at school) 2 inch 3 ring binder with see through cover sleeve and inside cover pocket. Clear Page Protectors (10) Pencil/Pens Colored Pencils Highlighters Calculator (four function)
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**Behavior and Conduct**

I have no doubt that everyone in this classroom has the ability to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner. And, of course, the inability to behave properly will have consequences. Disruptions to the working environment of the classroom, such as inappropriate comments and disrespectful behavior towards anyone in our school community will not be tolerated. Because of the nature of our class and the amount of hands-on work, it is very important that students demonstrate that they can act responsibly in order to ensure everyone's safety. Students who are unable to exhibit expected behavior will not be permitted to participate in labs.

**Leaving the Classroom**

At CMS, leaving the classroom for any reason is a privilege. Locker visits are permitted after each block. Please make sure to use the bathroom before class and bring all of the required materials with you to class. If you need to leave for any reason you must sign out on the sign out sheet, have your agenda pass filled out correctly and signed by me. It is a CMS policy that students have an agenda in order to leave the class.

**Grading**

**Attendance! Attitude! Effort!** These three things will greatly affect your grade. This class will involve hands-on laboratory activities and cannot always be made up if missed. For this reason attendance is very important to be able to complete all assignments. If you are absent it is your responsibility to come to me to find out what you missed and make a plan for any missed work, quizzes, test, etc. As a general rule you will have the same number of days as you were absent to make-up tests and quizzes.

A weighted system is used for determining grades. Late work is always accepted, but will receive a grade no higher than 85%. Each assignment (homework, projects, labs, quizzes and tests) will be allocated a point value. Rubrics will be used to determine points earned for projects. All points will be recorded in PowerSchool, the online grading system.

Students and parents will have access and grades will be updated consistently. My door is always open for students who need extra help. Opportunities for extra credit will be provided periodically throughout the semester. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities.

**Grading Scale:**

90% - 100% - A  
80% - 89% - B  
70% - 79% - C  
64% - 69% - D  
63% and below – F

**Grade Weights:**

40% - Tests/Projects  
30% - Unit Quizzes  
20% - Classwork/Labs  
10% - Homework

**Academic Honesty**

**INTEGRITY IS IMPORTANT. BE RESPONSIBLE.** My goal is for each student to improve their understanding of the science concepts we cover. Therefore it is vital that all students do their own work. If a student is caught cheating on any assignment he or she will receive automatic consequence. **This includes people allowing others to copy work.** Penalties will be enforced as outlined in the student handbook.

**Homework**

I plan to email parents with updates on upcoming projects and exams. I host my own website: [www.mcnutphysics.com](http://www.mcnutphysics.com), which is updated daily throughout the year. This website will be linked updated information on Edline.net, which you can access through the school website [http://cms.culpeperschools.org/pages/Culpeper Middle School](http://cms.culpeperschools.org/pages/Culpeper_Middle_School).

Homework is the student's opportunity to practice skills covered in class, but is assigned sparingly. It is usually graded based on completion, so students are asked to always attempt the work. The vast majority of grades will be based on the assignments and projects completed during class.

Occasionally projects and graded assignments will need to be completed at home if in-class time was given and the student was not able to complete it. Making arrangements to come to my class during WEB is a good solution for completing late or incomplete assignments. If you are absent, check the website to see what we covered on that day. When you return, please make sure to show me any missing assignments that were due while you were out. I keep my gradebooks updated daily, so this will ensure that we can keep accurate measurements of your fantastic progress.

**Communication**

If, at any time, parents or students have concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am also willing to make arrangements to work with students who require additional help. Parents can call the school at 540-825-4140 and leave a message or e-mail me at [jm9491@culpeperschools.org](mailto:jm9491@culpeperschools.org).

**I look forward to working with all of you!**

