

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

The important thing in science is not so much to obtain new facts as to discover new ways of thinking about them. ~William Lawrence Bragg

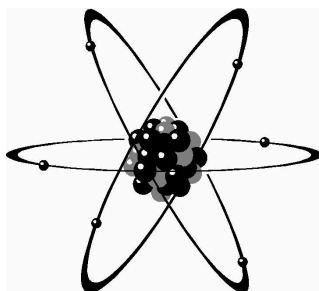
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Guiding Principles

- Slow down and observe. Try to avoid "naming" before you pay close attention.
- Focus on learning and developing your critical thinking and problem solving skills.
- Listen to the words of others.
- Ask questions.

Key Learning Activities

- Monitoring conditions of our local ecosystem
- Watching cycles of life
- Observing closely
- Whiteboarding
- Developing models



Resources & Materials

- Class Web Page (check daily!)
- McDougal Littell Science – Physical Science Text books & note-taking book
- Notebook
- Highlighter (min. 3 colors)
- Colored Pencils
- Glue sticks
- Tape & Scissors

You are responsible for your learning.

Major Units

- Q1: Matter
- Q2: Interactions of Matter
- Q3: Forces and Motion
- Q4: Energy

Year-long: Inquiry Project

Assessments

- *Teacher-Initiated:* On a regular basis, assessments to gauge the current level of your understanding will be given during class time. Feedback is related to your proficiency for each learning objective.
- *Student-Initiated:* Each learner learns at a different rate. The goal is for you to work until you reach a solid understanding of content.

Criteria for student assessments

- You make corrections on old assessments.
- You show me extra steps you have taken to learn material.
- You schedule a time to assess.

Grading

I believe that grading should be determined by how well you understand the concepts of the course. Nothing else. Homework is practice. Some students will need to do a lot of practice to learn certain topics but may do less on others. In this way homework affects your grade but it does not directly factor in. Assessments can take many forms and provide a basis of conversation of your understanding and help guide you to improvement. Levels of understanding are listed below:

3	4	5
"Building" - Core vocabulary and content are mastered.	"Intermediate" - Connections and explanations of concepts.	"Advanced" - Going beyond what is explicitly discussed in class.

In a grading period, approximately two to four units of study take place. Final grade scale:

C - At least a 3 on each unit.	B - At least a 4 in one standard and no lower than a 3.	A - At least a 5 in one standard and no lower than a 4.
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