

Course Syllabus

Physical Science (1 credit)

Warren County High School

Instructor: Lori Mayfield (Email: mayfieldl@warrenschoools.com) Room: 250

Textbook: Tennessee Physical Science Publisher: McGraw-Hill, 2026

Course Description:

Physical science is an overview course that exposes students to a large number of the concepts found in both chemistry and physics. The course provides students with a solid foundation to build upon in more advanced science classes. Course instruction will meet the Physical Science curriculum standards set forth by the State of Tennessee Department of Education. These standards include units covering matter and its interactions, motion and stability, energy, and waves and their applications in technology for information transfer. Students will be taught using varied methods of instruction, including classroom lectures, demonstrations, and laboratory activities. Technology will be used in the classroom and laboratory to increase and improve our ability to observe and test hypotheses.

Required Materials: 1 subject spiral notebook, folder with brads or 3-ring binder, pencil, blue or black ink pen, highlighter, corded earbuds or headphones, and a scientific calculator. If you do not want to use shared supplies, you will also need colored pencils, scissors, a glue stick, and a ruler. **Students should bring their charged Chromebook to class each day.**

Lab: Students must pass a Laboratory Safety Quiz and return a Lab Safety Agreement, signed by their parent or guardian, to participate in any laboratory activities. Students must follow all lab safety rules and procedures. Failure to follow lab safety rules and procedures will result in a discipline referral to the grade level principal, and the student will not be allowed to participate in other laboratory activities.

Grades: Grades will follow the grading scale approved by the Warren County Board of Education. Skyward will be used to post all grades. Progress reports will also be sent home by email and paper copies for students to get signed.

Extra credit: No regular extra credit opportunities have been given. Extra credit may sometimes be available as bonus questions at the instructor's discretion.

To Calculate Your Current Average: Each assignment, lab, quiz, test, project, etc. will be assigned a point value. To calculate your nine-week grade, divide the total number of points earned by the total number of points possible and multiply by 100. All grades are NOT out of 100 possible points. Points will vary by assignment. **You are required to keep an interactive notebook with daily work.** Work in the pockets or stapled together does not constitute a notebook and will not be graded. Grades will be updated weekly in Skyward.

Absenteeism, Tardies, and Make-Up Work: WCHS Policies are stated in the WCHS Student Handbook. Regular attendance is necessary to keep up and succeed in this class. Remember to ask for make-up work and any notes if you are absent. Check Google Classroom. **You are**

expected to ask for work prior to missing class for ANY scheduled absence or school-sponsored activities. ANY test or assignment announced prior to an absence will be due on the day the student returns to school. Turn in any excuse notes to the Attendance Office. *Please see me if special circumstances exist.

Work: Failure is not an option. I require success from all of my students; however, your work is your responsibility. All work is expected on the due date. I will not accept zeros. Work must be completed to ensure your success in this class. Habitual non-completion of work will result in a referral to the grade level principal. You must complete all assignments.

Late Work: Late work will receive a lower grade. I will not accept any late work after a quiz or test has been taken for that specific topic.

WCHS Science Department Late Work:

- o The following policy will be applied to all late work submitted:
 - o 10% per day deduction up to 5 days (Ex: An assignment 2 days late will receive a maximum score of 80%).
 - o Any assignment more than 5 days late will receive a maximum score of 50% (1/2 credit)
 - o No assignments will be accepted after the following:
 - An assessment has been taken over the material
 - A submitted assignment has been returned to the student

This policy will be utilized on a case-by-case basis according to federal laws and regulations and at the discretion of the teacher. If you have any questions or extenuating circumstances, come see me and have a conversation regarding your work.

Re-do policy/ Grade Recovery: If your current average in the class is 60 or lower, you may re-do/ correct assignments to improve your grade. The highest grade that you can receive on a re-do is 60. You will be given 3 re-do opportunities each quarter. The re-dos may only be used on attempted work; they cannot be used to remove zeros. It is your responsibility to notify me if you wish to re-do an assignment. Re-dos may only be used on homework, classwork, quizzes, and tests. They may not be used on any major projects, interactive science notebooks, or laboratory work. No re-dos will be accepted the last week of each quarter. Pioneer Time will provide students with the opportunity to re-do work during the school day.

Textbook: Students will have access to both a paper copy of the textbook and an online copy on the McGraw-Hill platform, which is accessible through Clever. If a student checks out a paper copy of the textbook, the student will be responsible for keeping up with the book and returning it at the end of the semester.

Hall Passes: You will only be given a hall pass in the event of an emergency. Students must fill out the hall pass log to exit the room. All trips to the restroom and lockers should be done during class change. Please let me know if special circumstances exist.

Food and Drinks: Food, drinks, candy, etc are not allowed in class. You may have a water bottle with a lid. Keep snacks and drinks in your lunch box or backpack.

ALL WCHS RULES AND WC BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES WILL BE FOLLOWED. See the student handbook on the WCHS website for school rules, policies, and disciplinary consequences.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM will be used. Check Google Classroom daily.

Classroom Expectations:

- BE KIND! Treat everyone how you would want to be treated.
- BE RESPECTFUL! I expect students to be respectful to themselves, fellow students, teachers, subs, and other visitors, and our supplies and equipment.
- BE PREPARED! I expect everyone to come to class prepared and ready to learn. Bring your materials (folder, paper, pencil, Chromebook, and headphones) with you to class.
- BE YOUR BEST! Be your best by doing your best! Complete all work! Study!
- BE DETERMINED! Don't give up! Ask for help if you need it!
- BE FOCUSED! No distractions with cell phones and non-academic websites. No toys, squishies, etc will be allowed in class.
- DO NOT spray anything in the classroom or laboratory. No perfume, body spray, air freshener, spray deodorant, cologne, hair products, etc.
- All trash must be placed in a trash can; do not leave a mess.
- No food, drinks other than water, candy, etc will be allowed in class.
- We will follow all rules and policies from WCHS and our District. These policies and rules are found in the Student Handbook and the district website.

Honor Code: Students are expected not to cheat. Cheating involves:

- Use of another person's work as your own
- Copying another person's work
- Plagiarizing
- Preparing to cheat in advance (copy of test/ quiz, hidden notes, etc)
- Failure to follow test instructions, such as talking or using a cell phone.
- Using AI (ChatGPT, etc) to complete assignments.

Any student suspected of breaking the Honor Code will be referred to his or her grade level principal.

I want every student to enjoy the class and learn. I believe that each student will succeed. I will hold you to high standards. I will be here for you. I believe that I have the right to teach and every student has the right to learn. NO ONE has the right to infringe upon another person's right to learn and be safe at school. This being said, I expect every student to adhere to all the classroom and school rules and treat all persons and equipment with respect. If you ever have questions or need help, please come see me. I know that we will have a great year!

