

Physical Science Syllabus 2017-2018**Bill Sellers****bsellers@westminsterknights.org**

Content: Physical Science consists of one semester of an introduction to Chemistry with units of study that include Chemical Building Blocks, and Chemical Interactions. A one semester introduction to Physics includes Forces, Motion, and Energy; Sound and Light; Electricity and Magnetism.

Purpose: The purpose of this course is for you to make astute observations and develop understanding of the behavior of matter and energy in the world that God has given us.

Methodology: Our class will learn to use known information to prove, or confirm existing ideas or laws. We will also use known/observed/ information to find/calculate unknowns/variables. We will mix classroom experiences with real world elements/personal experiences to gain a greater understanding of the nature of physics and chemistry.

Academic Honesty:

- You are responsible for your own work. Someone else should not do your work or complete your assignments
- You should always maintain possession of, and control over, your own work. You should never give your work to another student unless I tell you to, or unless it is for a specific group project or lab activity.
- Letting someone else have or see your work in a way that would give the other person the opportunity to copy all or a portion of your work is unacceptable.
- You should not use or copy the work of someone else to turn in as your own work. You should never be in possession of work or assignments belonging to another student. For example, you should not have your personal homework paper and the homework paper belonging to another student.
- Students should not use materials on a test that I have not given permission to use. You should not receive information during a test or provide information to other students about the content of a test.
- When you are working in groups on assignments or projects, all students should work together to figure out solutions to problems. One student does not do all of the work while other group-members copy it.

Grade Components:

- **Daily Grade:** You will have an opportunity to earn 2 points per day by arriving to class on time, being prepared with all materials and participating in the day's activities.
- **Classwork/Homework Activities:** Assignments that you complete during or outside of class are given to help you practice skills and to improve your understanding of concepts you are learning. Sometimes homework will give you a preview of new material. Notices about classwork/homework assignments and upcoming assessments will be written on the board. You should copy the information into your Academic Planner.

- Notebooks: You will be expected to maintain your Physical Science notebook based on the guidelines and instructions given daily in class. Points will be awarded for following directions, correctness, completion, and appearance. On occasion you will be allowed to use your notebook during Knowledge Exhibition Opportunities.
- Knowledge Exhibition Opportunities (KEOs—formerly known as quizzes or tests): You will have several opportunities to demonstrate your understanding of the material we discuss in class.
 - Vocabulary KEOs: Vocabulary words will be given and defined as a part of the weekly discussions. There may be up to 15 new terms each week that you are responsible for knowing. Vocabulary KEOs will typically be administered on a weekly basis. These will give you the opportunity to earn 20 to 25 points.
 - Content KEOs: Throughout the quarter you will answer 3/5/10 questions to check understanding of recent material. Sometimes a graded lab or class activity will be used instead of a Content KEO. These will usually allow you to earn up to 20 to 25 points.
 - Unit KEOs: There will usually be two or three Unit KEOs per quarter. These are worth at least 100 points and are cumulative for that quarter.
 - Semester Exams: A major exam will be given at the end of each semester. These are cumulative for the semester. The semester exam score will account for ten percent of the semester grade.
- Late Work: Late work is subject to an 11% per day penalty. Work that is turned in late due to an absence has a two-day grace period before a penalty is assessed.

Absences: If you are absent, you are responsible for obtaining the notes and assignments you missed. Even if you talk to other students about the notes or assignments you need to do, you should still talk to me before school or during tutorial for clarification, to get any handouts, or to discuss assignment or KEO due-dates.

Tutoring/Help: I will be available during the scheduled tutorial times and often before school.

I am looking forward to a great year together.

Bill Sellers

*"Now therefore, if I have found favor in Your sight,
please show me now your ways,
that I may know you
in order to find favor in your sight."*

Exodus 33:13

I have read the syllabus for Physical Science and I understand the expectations and structure of the class.

Student Name: (Print)

Student Signature:

I have read the syllabus for Physical Science with my son/daughter and will help them as appropriate and necessary to fulfill the outlined requirements.

Parent/Guardian Name: (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature:
