

Physical Science

Middle School 2017-2018
Periods 2, 3, 7, 8 Room 248
Crystal Yan Email: cyan@oakarts.org
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Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to fundamental concepts of physics and chemistry while strengthening their scientific and engineering skills, such as:

- asking questions,
- defining problems,
- developing and using models,
- planning and carrying out investigations,
- analyzing and interpreting data,
- using mathematics and computational thinking,
- designing solutions, and
- obtaining, evaluating and communicating information.

Required Texts & Materials:

Each day, students will need to bring the following items to science class:

- Writing utensils
- Earbuds (to watch videos online)
- 2 spiral-bound notebooks/binder used exclusively for science (1 for each semester)
- Handouts from class
- Homework assignments (when assigned)
- Student planner

Text:

- Mrs. Yan's Physical Science Flexbook 2017-2018 – available online at ck12.org. This will replace a textbook being assigned to bring home.
- Hard copies of each chapter will be available for students as needed.

Lab Fee Donation:

At OSA, we believe that using inquiry and hands-on science is the best way to learn abstract concepts. Students will participate in labs, simulations and hands-on activities every week. These labs will help strengthen students' scientific and engineering skills, and provide them with a greater understanding of the abstract concepts discussed throughout the year. To offset the cost of the materials needed for labs, the science department is requesting a lab fee donation of \$20 per student.

Physical Science Course Outline:

The Grade 8 Physical Science curriculum, aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards, will cover the following topics over the course of the year:

- Matter and Its Interactions which includes states of matter, elements and the periodic table, and atomic bonding/chemistry;
- Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions, which includes motion, force, machines, and energy;
- Energy, which includes waves and the electromagnetic spectrum;
- Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer, which includes electricity and magnetism.
- Engineering Design

Grading Policy:

Homework	20%	Projects and labs	25%	Entry tickets	10%
Class Work/Participation (includes note-taking)	20%	Tests and Quizzes	25%		

Homework will be frequently assigned and is normally due the following day. Students are encouraged to use a planner to keep track of homework assignments, projects, and tests for all classes. Students will also be expected to keep notes for lessons and labs in a binder or notebook specifically marked for science.

Work may be turned in late for **reduced** credit. Class work and homework that is more than two weeks late will **not** be accepted, except in the case of emergencies, or pre-arranged extensions.

Absent/Make Up Work Policy:

If you will be absent or tardy, please have your parent or guardian email Mrs. Yan the reason for your absence or tardy **the day it occurs** using this subject line format: “(Student name) Absence Excuse (___/___/___)” or “(Student name) Tardy Excuse (___/___/___) Period (___)”.

Assignments and other resources for each lesson can be found on Mrs. Yan’s blog, which is updated daily. Absent students may retrieve homework assignments from the blog or from Mrs. Yan directly, if the absence is planned in advance. Students can print their homework and bring it to class, or send it to me by email: cyan@oakarts.org. Absent students have one day for each day absent to make up any missed assignments.

Cell Phone Policy:

There is a zero-tolerance policy for cell phones and other electronic devices used in class **without express permission**. Such devices will be confiscated and can be retrieved from Mrs. Yan at the end of the school day.

Expectations:

- **Perseverance** – Students may not say, “I can’t, I won’t, and it’s too hard.” We never give up.
- **Respect** – Students must respect themselves, their peers, and adults. Verbal or nonverbal disrespect will not be tolerated. We treat others how we want to be treated.
- **Integrity** – Students will be honest. Cheating, lying, and stealing are not permitted. We do the right thing and make good choices.
- **Discipline** – Students are expected to follow directions and do their work. Goofing around or causing distractions in the classroom is not acceptable. We understand there is a time for fun and time for focus.
- **Excellence** – Students will always give their best effort and strive for improvement. We never settle for less than we are capable of achieving.

Possible Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior:

- **Verbal warning** – Student will be reminded of the rule and advised to make a better choice.
- **Meeting with student** – Student will serve a lunch detention and meet with Mrs. Yan to discuss issues and options for remediation.
- **Lunch detention/Behavior reflection** – Student will fill out a behavior reflection during lunch detention, and get it signed by his/her parents.
- **Parent notification** – Parents will be called or emailed about student’s behavior.
- **Class removal** – Student will be asked to step into the hallway or sent to another class (only in extreme circumstances).
- **Parent meeting** – Parents may be called in to meet with Mrs. Yan if their student exhibits extreme misbehaviors or repeatedly breaks class rules.
- **Restorative Justice/Community Circles** – Students will talk through their conflicts, and work toward a restorative solution, with Mrs. Yan supervising and guiding them.

* *Any consequences outlined above may be skipped or amended due to the severity of the issue.*

Parent(s) and student, please sign to acknowledge that you have seen and read this syllabus. Return to Mrs. Yan by **Friday, September 1, 2017** to receive credit for your first science homework assignment of the year. Should you have any questions, please email Mrs. Yan at cyan@oakarts.org.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Printed Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Work or Cell Phone number(s)

Parent/Guardian email address

Printed Student Name

Student Signature

Will your student have access to a computer with reliable Internet access when needed to view the online flexbook and/or complete online assignments?

_____ **Yes, my student will be able to use a computer to access the online flexbook and complete online assignments.**

_____ **No, my student will not be able to use a computer to access the online flexbook. I understand that my student will be given a hard copy of the material at the beginning of each chapter.**