

Welcome to Physical Science!

Physical science is the first of our science series. This is an integrated science course with an emphasis on physics. Since physics is the most basic science – studying how things work on a fundamental level – we want you to have this foundation at the start. Then, the chemistry and biology classes that follow will both be easier to understand and go deeper into their fields. You will be developing your science skills this year by studying subjects such as atomic theory, chemical reactions, earth science, energy, waves, light, electricity, and nuclear physics.

One unusual feature of this course is that it has no traditional textbook for you to buy. Instead, we have written our own materials to complement the class. Your binder will be your book for the course; therefore, it is very important that you keep it organized and complete. Instructions for your binder are given below.

The first week of class, you will receive numerous handouts; so get your binder ready as soon as possible to keep everything organized. It would be best to bring it the very first day so that you are all ready to go. We will be doing a binder check very early on to be sure you have everything you need.

Binder: You will be receiving a lot of material over the course of the semester, so we prefer that you have a separate binder for science only. (That is, you may not share the binder with another class.) It should have rings at least 1 inch in diameter and a sturdy cover. On the outside or inside cover, be sure to label it clearly with your name.

Get a set of 5 dividers for your binder and label them as shown below:

- **TEXT:** This section is for the pages that you will be given with readings, outlines, or lab instructions on them. They will be numbered in the upper right hand corner and you are to keep them in that order. It will help you when you go back to study for quizzes and tests if the material stays organized. If you make a graph or do a writing assignment, you can place them in this section right behind the relevant text pages. Anything with a page number in the corner goes in this section.
- **ARTICLES:** From time to time, you will be given articles written by other authors. Place them and any notes you take from them in this section.
- **NOTES:** This section is for your notes and should also always have several pieces of blank paper ready in it.
- **PROBLEMS:** This is the place for your pages of homework problems. They are labeled sequentially, and you should keep them in order. You can also place your graded homework (to be discussed later) in this section.
- **TESTS and QUIZZES:** Please keep your quizzes and tests in order, along with any test corrections.

In addition, please put your assignment sheets, when you receive them, in the very front of your binder, right before the text section divider. With the latest assignment sheet on top, you will be able to see your assignment very easily.

Bring your binder to class every day. You will also need to bring a calculator to science class each day. Whatever calculator your math class requires will work for science too.

We look forward to meeting you soon!