# Westchester Secondary Charter School, 2014-2015

## Course: 8th Grade Physical Science

**Teacher:** Ms. Klose

**Email:** [mklose@westchestercharter.com](mailto:mklose@westchestercharter.com)  
**Course Website:** msklose.weebly.com/physical-sci

**Office Hours:** Students may see me during lunch or my free periods, by appointment only.

## Purpose of Course

This course was created to introduce students to the concept of different fields of Physical Science. The first semester of the course will focus heavily on Chemistry, while the second half will give an introduction to both Physics and Astronomy. This class will also allow students to explore the physical sciences through different simulations, labs, and experiments, while reinforcing reading, writing, and math skills.

## The Learning Environment

**Required Text:**

Frank, D., Jones, T., Miaoulis, B., Miller, S., Little, J., & Pasachoff, J. (2008). *Focus on California physical science*. Boston, Mass.: Pearson Prentice Hall.

**Required Materials:**

* 1 single-subject spiral notebook or composition notebook
* Pens & pencils
* Graphing paper

**Recommended Materials**:

* Glue/glue stick/tape
* Scissors
* Ruler

## How Learning will be Assessed

1. **Grading system: \*\*\**Please note that these percentages are approximations.\*\*\****

Class work (20%): Students will be graded on notes and in-class assignments on a regular basis. Students should prepare for notebook checks where teacher will check for completion of all assignments.

Labs (15%): Throughout the course, there will be many labs and demonstrations. Students will be graded on lab work, which includes a neat run-through of the entire lab assignment. Rubrics will be used to grade labs.

Homework & Presentations (20%): Homework will be assigned regularly and will consist of vocabulary, reading, and extra practice problems. Students will turn in their homework at the beginning of the class, and should not be done during class time.

Participation (5%): Students are required to show up for class everyday on time, and should be prepared for class every day.

Quizzes & Checkpoints (20%): These assessments will cover the material since the last assessment (i.e. they are NOT cumulative). Your lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of class. This means that if you miss a day that a quiz is administered, that will be your dropped quiz score.

Tests & Unit Exams (20%): A cumulative test will be given every other chapter, and an exam will be given at the end of each unit, and will be cumulative. There is no cumulative final or midterm examination. Review sessions will be held for each of these larger exams the day before the exam in class.

1. **Grading Scale and method**

A = 90% and above

B= 80% and above

C= 70 % and above

F = below 70%

1. **Missed assignments**

See student handbook for missed assignment policy.

## Technical, Classroom and School Policy Information

Food & Beverages  
Because of the possibility of becoming poisoned due to the chemicals used in the classroom, it is dangerous to eat, drink or chew anything in the lab or classroom environment. A sealed water bottle will be allowed in the classroom on days when no lab is taking place.

Chemical SafetyFor all labs, demos, and experiments, there will be a safety sheet passed out to students prior to the day of the lab. Special rules will come into play during these lab days (ex. hair tied back neatly, etc.). If these safety rules are disregarded and cannot be amended, then student will not be allowed to participate in the activity and will instead make observations from afar. If the situation requires, the student will be removed from class and be given an alternate assignment.

For all other rules and regulations, please refer to the school-wide policy and discipline.

Student Expectations & ResponsibilitiesThe student shall:

* Come to class everyday and be on time
* Respect their self, others, and the class and laboratory environment
* Help to create a positive classroom learning environment
* Come prepared to class and participate to the best of their ability
* Follow and respect the teacher’s requests
* Obey all Westchester Secondary Charter School Rules
* Work hard, try, and request help when they need it
* Keep an organized notebook of all classroom material

## Chapters & Units:

**Grading Period 1:**

**Unit 1: Chemical Building Blocks**

* Chapter 1: Introduction to Physical Science
* Chapter 2: The Nature of Matter
* Chapter 3: Solids, Liquids, and Gases
* Chapter 4: Elements and the Periodic Table

**Grading Period 2:**

**Unit 2: Chemical Interactions**

* Atoms and Bonding
* Chemical Reactions
* Acids, Bases, and Solutions
* Carbon Chemistry

**Grading Period 3:**

**Unit 3: Motion, Forces, and Energy**

* Motion and Energy
* Forces
* Forces in Fluids

**Gradint Period 4:**

**Unit 4: Astronomy**

* Earth, Moon, and Sun
* Exploring Space
* The Solar System
* Stars, Galaxies, and the Universe

Please sign and return to Ms. Klose by Friday 8/29.

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I have read Ms. Klose’s 8th grade physical science syllabus and understand the rules and regulations of this classroom. I agree to the terms as outlined above and understand the requirements of the classroom. I will respect the classroom, maintain a safe learning environment, and will follow Ms. Klose’s requirements for her classroom for the 2014-2015 school year.

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Student Name (Printed)

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Student Signature Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date