

Introductory Physical Science: Mr. LeVake

Contact Information: (507) 333 – 6120 or Rod_LeVake@faribault.k12.mn.us

OBJECTIVE: The IPS (Introductory Physical Science) course is an introduction to the concepts of physical science. This physical science course focuses primarily on the study of matter and its properties.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Topics will include measurement of mass and volume, atomic theory, properties of matter, electricity, and chemistry will be emphasized. Math skills such as algebra, graphical analysis, and proportions will be applied to the scientific method. Through these topics, students will acquire useful laboratory skills, reasoning, realistic problem-solving techniques, and communication skills. The textbook is titled Introductory Physical Science and is authored by Uri Haber-Schaim, Reed Cutting, H. Graden Kirksey, and Harold A. Pratt. We use the 9th edition, copyrighted in 2010 and published by Science Curriculum Incorporated.

MATERIALS: An essential part of this course will be the student notebook. Each student is expected to purchase a **graphing notebook** exclusively for science. The notebook will contain such items as student answers to textbook questions, experimental write-ups, tables, graphs, notes on discussions and readings, and other essential information. A well kept notebook will prove to be the single most important asset of each student. The notebook may be used when taking quizzes and tests. A paper **folder** will also be needed to keep handouts and worksheets in. An inexpensive **calculator** will also be very helpful. You may use the calculator on all tests, quizzes, and during class. A successful student will bring their graphing notebook, folder, pencil and calculator to class each day.

GRADING: Grades will be determined on the following basis:

- 1.) Tests over each chapter (may use chapter review and notebook)
- 2.) Notebook quizzes (may use notebook)
- 3.) Turning in of completed assignments. Late assignments are 1/2 credit.
- 4.) Attendance as outlined in school board policy
 - a.) reduce grade 1/3 for each unexcused absence
 - b.) reduce grade 1/3 for each of three times tardy
- 5.) Laboratory behavior will be worth 5 points for each experiment by being responsible in following these expectations:
 - 1.) Work safely and wear goggles when needed
 - 2.) Talk quietly
 - 3.) Work at **YOUR** station using **YOUR** equipment
 - 4.) Be on task, ignore other groups
 - 5.) Good Clean-up
- 6.) Final exams at the end of each semester

EXTRA CREDIT: Students will have occasional opportunities for extra credit as supplied by the teacher.

MAKE-UP WORK: Attendance is very important to doing well in science. Absences should be avoided at all costs. Whenever possible, please plan family vacations for days when school is not in session. If the student is gone for 1-3 days unexpectedly, they should find out from their lab partner what they missed, or check the assignment book. Class notes that were missed may be copied from your lab partner and missed handouts should be picked up from the teacher. If the student is expecting to be gone, check with the teacher beforehand for work that can be done.

HOMEWORK: Students may not complete all their work in class. In such cases, the student is expected to take work home. The student's primetime period is also a good time to complete assignments.

METHODS: Opportunities for learning scientific knowledge will be presented to the student using several methods of instruction including large and small group discussions, technical reading, lab experiments, pre-lab and post-lab writing, reading non-fiction text, and video programs.

LABORATORY PARTNER: Students will work with a partner. Each student is responsible for communicating and cooperating with their partner in a helpful and courteous manner and recording for themselves all information regarding each lab.

FEES: Currently, there are no fees charged for this course. However, if a student breaks or damages equipment, they will be charged a breakage fee determined by the teacher.

COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS: Students will receive a midterm progress report. Grades will be given at the end of each quarter. At the end of the semester a semester grade will be given based on the two quarter grades and the final exam. If a student is having unusual problems in class, the parent will be contacted by phone, letter or email.

OFFICE HOURS: Check with your teacher before hand, but generally speaking 7:30 - 8:00 A.M and 3:05-3:30 P.M. are good times to see your teacher. Other times may be possible by appointment.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS:

1. Be on time.
2. Bring the text book, notebook, folder, calculator, and pencil everyday.
3. Stay on task, use time wisely and work quietly and safely.
4. Always do your best. Complete and hand in all assignments.
5. Show respect for others, their property and their right to learn.

KEYS TO SUCCESS:

- Do your work neatly, completely and **turn it in on time.**
- Check your grades on student portal frequently for missing work.
- Maintain a well written, neat and complete notebook.
- Take time to study for tests.
- Listen during class.
- Cooperate in your group.
- Do your best at all times " Anything worth doing is worth doing well".
- Practice persistence. Never, never, never give up.
- Turn off the TV, computer, video game, cell phone, etc... - **READ DAILY!**
- Good behavior at all times.

Have a great year!