PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Teacher: Mrs Masters
Room Location: S233
Course Length: year (semester 1 & 2)
(voicemail): 419-473-8454
(e-mail): bmasters@wls4kids.org

Textbook(s):

Holt: Physical Science; classroom copy for in class use only (can be checked out if you would like to, just need to let me know what the book number is)
CK12, online textbook resource**primary resource

Materials Needed:

Folder
Chromebook
calculator (not an expensive one; I have a very limited number than can be used in class only)
pencils or pens
goggles (will store in classroom)

Grading Policy:

Grades will come from a variety of sources: tests, quizzes, homework, labs, and out of class assignments. Tests will count as 30% of your final grade. Homework, labs etc will count as 70% of your grade. This is department policy. Each unit will have a test and homework/lab grades.

Per WLS board policy, the overall grading policy is:

93-100	A		80-82	B-		67-69	D+
90-92	A-		77-79	C+		63-66	D
87-89	B+		73-76	C		60-62	D-
83-86	B		70-72	C-		0-59	F

Notes and class activities:

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. If you miss notes, ask a classmate if you can borrow theirs. At times, I will take pictures on my phones that can be sent to you, but I don't always take pictures or I usually delete them after a few days. You will not do well on the unit tests if you have not gotten notes/information from someone. I try not to give a lot of notes a one time, but notes are a "necessary evil" and sometimes the only way to give you the information you need. We will then do multiple activities to reinforce the information to cover the different ways of learning. These may include a variety of illustrations, labeling, cut and pastes, flash cards, activity stations, labs. Ultimately, it is YOUR responsibility to get any and all notes you may have missed.

Labs:

If you miss a lab, it must be made up at a time of my choosing, according to my schedule. I cannot stay just any day after school at a moment's notice; my schedule after school is complicated to say the least and requires some significant rearrangement; so, it will need to be the day I choose or during advisory, if possible. It may also be a virtual lab if need be. Which it is will be of my choosing. I try to post my schedule (which is usually set by Sunday night) so you know what day I'm staying, with the understanding it may change on a moment's notice. I'm trying my best this year to keep it to Tues **or** Thurs so that you can plan as well, but the best laid plans.....

Homework Policy:

If you miss homework, you will be given a deadline by which time it must be turned in (unless previous exceptions have been made). After this time, it will be counted as late and will be worth less, if any points. All homework is part of your homework grade. All homework must be at least tried or attempted. If you come across a problem that is confusing and frustrating, I ask that you work on the problem for at least 3-4 minutes before moving onto the next one. Be sure to find out how to do the problem the next day in class. We will go over questions of my choosing and any you have on your homework before you turn it in, so be sure to ask for any help/clarifications you may have. If you have not completed a homework assignment, you are encouraged to write down the problem and its answer when we go over it in class. Sometimes I have other problems that can be done to "replace" problems that weren't done because of lack of understanding, but not always. I know which units cause problems, so only those units have the extra problems. The problems that are assigned are usually similar to those on the test. Copying answers from someone else is considered cheating, resulting in you getting a zero. If someone actually gives you their paper to copy, they are subject to a zero as well, at my discretion. You and I both know what copying is, and what sharing answers means and all that you want to call it by any name.... it's still cheating and it's still a zero.

Please do not put me in the position of having to give you (and possibly someone else) a zero.

Cell Phones: .....NO.....need I say more.

Any issues with them and the phones “visits” the phone “mole-tel” (a pun on a chemistry unit) at the front of the room for the rest of the period. Just put them away. Life is simpler that way. Blame past classes for this.

In the meantime, I play music when I deem it will help overall. I hope you like the late 60's, all the 70's, because that's about all I listen to. I choose. Requests....maybe from my list.

Remind 101 and Gizmos and CK12:

I have a Remind 101 account set up for this class. If you wish to join, the instructions are attached to this paper. You are not required to do so, but it is convenient when I need to send out a message reminding you of tests, missing assignments, deadlines, etc. It is entirely up to you. Parents are free to sign up as well. If you have detailed questions, I'd suggest that you email them to me using district email (bmasters@wls4kids.org) rather than the one-to-one chat portion of Remind (which I'm still learning).

I will also have a CK12 account and a Gizmos account set up for this class. There will be assignments, eventually, from both websites, that will be required. I will have the detailed sign up instructions for you when all is ready.

Social Media:

Just a note regarding Facebook. While I have a Facebook account (not Twitter or any other), please note that I do not accept student "friend requests." I know some teachers do, and that's fine as it's their choice, but I choose not to. Once you graduate from Whitmer, then I'm happy to and would love to continue to follow you in your successes after Whitmer. Currently, I have "friends" who are former students from over 20 years ago.... it’s wonderful to see what has happened in their life since Whitmer....but you must graduate first. So please do not be offended if I ignore any request from you. Some students (for whatever reason) have attempted to friend my 2 boys; it is entirely up to my children what they do, but I can tell you it's most likely they will not friend you back, as it makes them uncomfortable.

A second note, be VERY CAREFUL what you post. It tends to come back to you, as you know.

Lab Information:

You will be given a lab handout for every lab. This must be followed to the letter. Labs vary in point value, usually somewhere between 10 and 30 points. You must wear goggles at all times when in a lab. There are no exceptions. You will be using chemicals that are dangerous if splashed in your eyes. This is a school policy, and a state law. It will not change. If you remove your goggles, you will receive a zero for that lab and a referral to the

deans for a violation of lab safety. You cannot make up a lab at a later time for violation of safety procedure.

Lab reports are your responsibility, NOT your lab partners. It is important to remember that the only part of lab reports that will be the same as your lab partner's will be the data table and possibly the calculations; questions and conclusions are to be written by yourself. If you and your lab partner have the same answers, it is considered cheating and you both will receive a zero. I grade your papers side by side, so it is very easy to catch the "sharing of answers."

Special note regarding my schedule:
If you fall behind, please, please, please see me as soon as possible. You will not be successful if you get behind; STAY CAUGHT UP!! I will move mountains to help you get caught up, but I can only do so much.... ultimately it falls on you. Please just ask for help if and when you need it or think you do. If I think you need help, believe me, I will let you know.

I will do my best to make myself available after school at least once a week for extra help or making up tests/labs. My schedule for the week is usually set Sunday night and will be posted, but is subject to change as necessary.

IN THE END, YOUR GRADE IS STILL YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.