

8th Grade Physical Science

Mrs. Tower y

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Course Description

In this course, you will be studying energy, forces and motion, magnetism, electricity, gravity, phase changes, chemical reactions, light waves, and more. We use *Amplify Science* and other resources to guide our explorations and investigations into the wonders of the world. Our goal is that by the end of our time together you will be confident in investigating, designing, discussing, reading, writing, and visualizing like scientists and engineers. Be prepared to ask questions, make observations, develop ideas, communicate your findings, and have fun!

Unit of Study	Essential Question
Harnessing Human Energy	How can rescue workers get energy for their equipment during rescue missions?
Force and Motion	What happened in the missing seconds when the space pod should have docked with the space station?
Magnetic Fields	Why did the tests of a magnetic spacecraft launcher not go as planned?
Thermal Energy	Which heating system will best heat Riverdale School?
Phase Change	Why did the methane lake on Titan disappear?
Chemical Reactions	Why is there a mysterious reddish-brown substance in the tap water of Westfield?
Light Waves	Why is there a higher rate of skin cancer in Australia than in other parts of the world?

Course Grade

Your course grade reflects your achievement of learning targets and daily class participation. Each assignment and assessment is based on specific learning targets connected to the MT State Science Standards. Grades will be updated weekly. The course grade consists of the following weighted categories and will use the district's letter grade scale.

Category	Assignment Types	Weight
Learning Target Assessments Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the Montana State Science Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• End of Chapter Tasks• Written Scientific Arguments• Science Seminar Discussions• Quizzes• Critical Juncture (mid-unit check of understanding)• End of Unit Assessments• Final Proposals (for Engineering Units)	70 %
Habits of Work A measure of class participation and practice with new concepts and skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Classwork▪ End of chapter/unit reflections & surveys▪ Notebook checks	30%

Class Supplies

REQUIRED (Daily)

- Single-subject notebook for Science only
- Pencil
- Corded Computer Mouse (USB's get lost easily)

OPTIONAL (but helpful!)

- Water bottle
- Folder to organize class handouts
- Highlighters (green, yellow, pink)
- Colored pencils

Class Resources & Communication

Assignments and class resources may be posted in either Teams or Amplify. You can access both on a home computer through Clever.

TEAMS

Teams is your one-stop shop for class communication and resources. I will post class announcements, reminders, assignments and summary slideshows for lessons in Teams. There is also a link to my Weekly Agenda in a Teams Channel. This is the best place to find out missed work or get additional support when completing classwork outside of school.

AMPLIFY

We will be using the Amplify digital curriculum in this class. However, I would like to reduce screen-time and many assignments will be completed on paper.

Absences, Late Work, and Corrected Work

Absent? It is your responsibility to find out what you missed by checking my weekly agenda and complete the makeup work. Missed handouts can be found in my absent work folder.

Late and Corrected Assignments are accepted during the unit in which they are assigned. I want to give you every opportunity to complete assignments and understand the content. For every assignment, you may complete one "re-do" to improve your grade. Late work will not be accepted after the End of Unit Assessment.

Submitting Absent/Late Work: You must communicate that you have turned in digital absent/late/corrected work by sending me a Team's Chat message with the name of the assignment. Graded on Thursdays

Class Expectations

- 1) Be Respectful
- 2) Be On Time and Prepared to Learn
- 3) Be a Responsible, Active Learner- Everyone Participates
- 4) Be Safe- follow lab procedures and lab safety contract
- 5) Use Your Class Time Wisely
- 6) Clean up your workspace and all class materials
- 7) Use technology appropriately

Consequences for failure to meet class expectations may include a verbal warning, private discussion with me, call home, lunch detention, after school detention or office referral.

Leaving the Classroom

You need to gather supplies, get water, use the restroom during passing time. We follow the **20/10 Rule** in my class. There are no passes out of the classroom for the first **20 minutes** of class and the last **10** minutes. **BE HERE! BE A LEARNER!**

Tardies

You need to be in your seat, working on the Bell Ringer, when the bell rings. A trip to your locker for forgotten supplies will result in a tardy. If you receive **more than 3 tardies**, a detention will be issued.

Technology

Cell phone use is not allowed in class. Chromebook use is for educational purposes only. No games, Youtube, etc. Technology use is a privilege.

Towery 8th Science Syllabus

Student/ Guardian Acknowledgement

1. Read and discuss this document with your parent/guardian.
2. You and your parent/guardian need to each sign in the designated spot below,
3. Detach and return **THIS PAGE ONLY!** Please have your parent/guardian keep the first two pages for reference.

I have read and understand the 7th Science course syllabus.

Student name (print) _____ Class period _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parents and Guardians ~

You are my greatest partner and resource for helping your student to grow and succeed. Communication is key! Please reach out if you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns. Email is the best way to reach me. I am available by phone daily during my prep period (12:30- 1:15) and 2:50-3:30 Tuesday – Friday. I will try to get back to you as soon as possible. We are going to have a great year!

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

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