

SAINT JOSEPH'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL PHYSICAL SCIENCE -- COURSE EXPECTATIONS

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Remind signup:

For Text Messages text the class code to 81010

For email alerts send an email to [the class code]@mail.remind.com

1 September 2015

Course Description:

There are several goals of a ninth grade physical science course. By the end of the course, the student should:

- ➔ have acquired a foundation of factual information on which to build.
- ➔ have developed a level of mathematical and problem solving skills that will enable him to successfully continue the study of science and other subjects.
- ➔ be beginning to appreciate the wonder of the natural world and his own ability to understand it.
- ➔ be beginning to understand the moral aspects of scientific study and applications.
- ➔ know that individuals can have a profound influence on the study of science and its applications.
- ➔ be beginning to accept some personal responsibility for how science and technology effect humanity.

Format:

Five class periods per cycle
One double period lab per cycle.

Grading:

Quarter grade: The quarter grade will be determined from a variety of factors. Test scores (60%), Assigned Homework (10%), Lab Work (10%) Lab Reports (10%), In class work done individually and in groups (10%).

Semester grade: Each quarter contributes 40.0% of the semester grade and the examination contributes 20.0% of the semester grade. The semester examination is very important and stresses the importance of understanding and applying knowledge and skills gained throughout the semester.

Final grade: Simple average of both semester grades.

Tests: Four or more per quarter. Usually, tests will be given each cycle on 'F' days. Tests will be scored on a 30 point scale.

Homework: Before each class, students must **read ahead** and try to understand assigned text book sections as well as on line materials related to the next day's lesson. After each class, students should **review class notes**, compare the class lesson with the text and available on line resources and they should complete appropriate section reviews. In addition to the daily, routine homework, specific homework will be assigned and graded through "WebAssign.net". Students are responsible for the WebAssign fee. Login and signup instructions will be given in class.

Lab Reports: Each student is required to submit a report on his work in the lab. The skills required to write a useful lab report will be covered through class lessons and practice. A formal list of rules will be posted on line but students should remember that rules are easier to follow when they are understood.

Materials required in class each day:

1. **Scientific calculator (This must be the student's own calculator.)**
2. **Notebook**
3. **Pencil**
4. **Chromebooks are to be brought to class and will be used when appropriate but not continuously.**

Materials required to be available outside of class:

1. **Graphing software.** (Most spread sheets do adequate graphing.)
2. **Internet access.**
3. **Word processor.**

Test taking:

1. Tests will have a variety of formats in order to provide a variety of ways to assess the students' success. Essays, short answer questions, problems and even some multiple choice questions will appear from time to time
2. All work must be shown in the space provided in order to receive credit. Basic arithmetic should be done with a calculator or on scrap paper and not shown on the test paper.
3. Each student must bring **his own** calculator for tests. A wise student will use the calculator in class that is expected to be used for tests. It is prudent to learn how to use the calculator while learning the material.
4. **No printed or handwritten material** other than that provided by the teacher may be used during a test. This includes calculator manuals, directions and reference cards.
5. Only ordinary electronic calculators with no possible connection to outside sources may be used during a test. Therefore, cell phones, Chromebooks and similar connected devices may not be used during test taking.

Final Examination Exemptions:

According to Science Department policy, any student who completes the course with an A average in each of the four quarters and the first semester examination may be exempted from taking the final examination and will be considered to have earned an A for the course. This exemption policy is not subject to revision or alteration and **IS NOT AUTOMATIC.**

Absence or canceled school:

1. If school is canceled on a day that a test is scheduled, the test will be given on the next class day.
2. If a student is absent **for any reason**, he must see the teacher on the day that he returns to school in order to make arrangements to make up the work that was missed. This also applies to missed tests and quizzes. Missed work, including tests and quizzes will be counted as zero if the student fails to meet these requirements.
3. Assignments that were due during a student's absence or on the day of his return **are due** on the day of his return. The student may ask for an extension but the teacher's decision is final. **It is the student's responsibility** to obtain assignments and complete them even if they are given during his absence. It is doubly bad for a student to miss school and to skip homework.

Academic Honesty - Cheating is wrong for several reasons. Among them are:

- **Cheating is a lie.** It attempts to give the impression that the skills, effort and/or knowledge of the student are greater than they are.
- **Cheating is stealing.** It falsely gives a better grade to a student than that student deserves and leaves an honest student with a lower grade. This can ultimately result in a college admission or a job being given to a less qualified cheater and not to an honest, deserving student.

1. Any student who ***copies another's work or allows another to copy his work***, is guilty of cheating and will be given a zero for the assignment. Also, the teacher is required to inform the assistant principal of any violation of the academic honesty policy.
2. In tests and examinations: Any student found to have cheated, attempted to cheat or made preparations to cheat will be given a zero for the entire test or examination.
3. Students are not permitted to store any formulas or data in a calculator's memory except those explicitly mentioned by the teacher.
4. School policy requires that incidents be reported to the assistant principal for further action. Refer to the student directives for details.

Extra Help:

Extra help is available after school each day in the Physics Prep room until at least 3:15 PM except when meetings intervene. Before school, extra help is usually available in the Physics Prep room from approximately 7:10 AM until 7:50 AM. Extra help is not available before school on test days. Times during the school day are available by appointment.

Text Book: (These books are the property of the state of Pennsylvania and must be returned in good condition.)