**Physical Science Course Syllabus**

Instructor: Mrs. Ellis Email: [julia\_ellis@bsin.k12.nm.us](mailto:julia_ellis@bsin.k12.nm.us)

Classroom: 611 Phone: 634-3452

Classroom Website: [www.mrsellisscience.weebly.com](http://www.mrsellisscience.weebly.com) TwitterID: @ellisteaches

\*\*\*\*Lab Fee: $10, cash and checks payable to Bloomfield High School\*\*\*\*\*

**Course Description & Philosophy**

The course is designed to introduce you to the concepts of physics and chemistry. This course will challenge you to solve complex problems, think critically, question, and communicate. The open-ended nature of investigation is such that creativity and ingenuity are encouraged. The overall goal of this class is to help you to master concepts in this introductory course, prepare for more advanced courses, and relate science principles in your everyday experiences.

**Classroom Expectations**

I have high expectations for all my students; it is my goal that everyone will have an equal chance of learning and understand material. In order to do succeed, everyone must show consideration to the instructor and peers. The following are a few basic classroom expectations:

1. Come to class ON TIME and be prepared to learn
2. Show respect for yourself, others, and the classroom environment
3. Challenge yourself and be an active, positive participant
4. Put away all food, drink (except water), and electronics\*

\*Electronics used during class for non-academic purposes (including but not limited to cell phones, mp3 players, digital cameras, games) may be confiscated for return at a later date. However, if you have are expecting an urgent call, please talk to me before class.

**Classroom Website & Twitter Feed**

*Website:*

The classroom website for this class can be found at the address on the first page of this syllabus. While you are not required to use this, I HIGHLY recommend checking it on a regular, daily basis. It will have any announcements from our class Twitter Feed, a calendar, notes, handouts, activities, extra practice, and resources for your use and benefit. **Parents are encouraged to go to this website as well.**

*Twitter Agreement:*

Like the classroom website for this class, Twitter will be used to communicate with students and parents about upcoming assignments/test dates. Twitter will be used throughout the year to not only for me to communicate with students and parents, but as a method for students to communicate with each other and help each other. Some assignments completed through the course will be posted on Twitter. Student access to Twitter during the school day or during school activities may only take place with the permission of the parent/guardian. Further, you are acknowledging that student Twitter accounts are not managed nor monitored by Bloomfield High School beyond the scope of tweets that pertain to the class.Follow me at @ellisteaches or follow the class hashtag at #physicalsciencewithellis **See the parent/student agreement if you do not wish your student to participate in using Twitter for educational purposes in and out of the classroom.**

**Tutorial/Achievement Time**

Tutorial is held every morning from 7:45-8:15 and 3:35-4:00 in the classroom. Feel free to come and ask questions during this time. I recommend you utilize this time to receive extra help, pick up work from previous absences, complete assignments, and make up tests or labs.

**Classroom Materials**

You are responsible for bringing the following supplies to class on a daily basis:

* Pen & pencil
* Binder (at least 1.5 in)
* College ruled notebook paper

**Grading**

Grades are earned, not given, and will be reflective of your involvement and performance in class. Students will be provided with many opportunities to display mastery of knowledge and skills. Some assessments will be individual; others will be from group work. Grades will be kept up to date to the best of my ability. Student work generally falls into each of the four areas:

5% - Participation (entry and exit tasks, class discussions, materials)

15% - Practice (in-class work and homework)

20% - Lab & Projects (lab analysis and reporting, projects, presentations, research)

60% - Retention (Quizzes\* and tests) \*all quizzes will be announced (NO POP QUIZZES)

Semester Grading:

Quarter 1: 40% of final grade

Quarter 2: 40% of final grade

Semester Final Exam: 20% of final grade

The grading scale is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Percentage** | **Grade** | **Percentage** |
| A | 100-90 | D | 69-60 |
| B | 89-80 | F | 0-59 |
| C | 79-70 |  |  |

**Re-take Policy:**

In this course, there will be ample opportunities to improve grades. I want you to MASTER the course content. The most direct way to do this comes from raising Exam and Quiz scores. Homework and class work scores cannot be raised.

**Late Work Policy**

I expect all assignments to be turned in on time. This means before class starts in the appropriate location unless otherwise noted. Daily work that is late, such as homework, will receive NOT receive full credit. Each day an item is late, 10% of the possible grade will be taken off (If 50 points, a day late will result in 5 points taken off automatically). Obviously, if you have a unique situation that has prevented the completion of homework, please communicate with me so we can figure out a solution.

**Cheating/Plagiarism**

Cheating and plagiarizing will NOT be tolerated in this class. If I see you cheating or find that you have plagiarized your work, I will take appropriate actions. On your first offense, you will receive a zero on the assignment, and it cannot be made up. After the first offense, in addition to a zero grade, you will receive a call home and will need to get a note signed from a guardian indicating they understand you have cheated. After two offenses, you will also receive detention or suspension, depending on the severity of the infraction. After three, we will need to discuss if you will be able to receive credit for the course.

**Attendance and Tardy Policy**

You are responsible for any material you miss when absent for any reason, including sports. See the Student Handbook for the Attendance and Tardy Policy. Each quarter you are allowed 3 verified absences and 2 tardies without going on NG status.