

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Physical Science Syllabus 2013-2014

Haynes Bridge Middle School

(770) 740-7030

Teacher : Mrs. Gail Ritchie	Textbook: <u>Physical Science</u> Holt Science & Technology
Email Address: <a href="mailto:ritchieg@fultonschools.org">ritchieg@fultonschools.org</a>	Replacement Cost: \$70.75
Teacher Website: <a href="http://ritchie.weebly.com/">http://ritchie.weebly.com/</a>	
Holt Online Holt Learning Website: <a href="http://www.hrw.com">www.hrw.com</a> ; Students will be given a user name and password by the teacher.	

## Course Overview:

Physical Science provides students the opportunity to learn about lab safety, the use of reference materials and the application of process skills. Students gain an understanding of the properties of matter, atomic theory, periodic law, energy, heat energy, forces and motion, machines and work, sound, electromagnetic waves, static electricity, electrical circuits and magnetism.

## Course Content

First Semester:	Second Semester:
❖ Characteristics of Science and Safety	❖ Complete Force and Gravity
❖ Characteristics of Matter (Chemistry)	❖ Work and Machines
❖ Motion	❖ Energy
❖ Begin Force and Gravity	❖ Waves
	❖ Electromagnetism

Middle school TAG classes are advanced content courses directly aligned to the Georgia Performance Standards. The TAG curriculum is differentiated in order to make it rigorous and challenging for gifted learners. Additionally, it incorporates the following TAG standards and elements: developing advanced communication skills, advanced research skills, problem solving, thinking creatively, and using higher order critical thinking skills. To help meet this end, various projects and enrichment activities will be utilized during the year.

## Teacher/Academic Behavioral Expectations:

- Students are expected to be prepared for class with all necessary materials.
- Students should be polite and considerate of others.
- Students should complete all assignments in a timely manner.
- Students are expected to abide by the honor code. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism) will result in an immediate office referral.
- Each student is expected to adhere to the behavior expectations as outlined in the student agenda pages 5-7.

## Extra Help

Help sessions are available most mornings (except Tuesdays) from 7:50 – 8:30 a.m., or after school with an appointment made in advance. Students may come to working lunch with me any day so long as I do not have a meeting.

## Graduation Coach and Counselor

The Graduation Coach's primary responsibility is to work with all students to encourage academic success. Dr. Pagnotti offers a variety of academic programs that can help students achieve. These programs (Working Lunch, Friday Finish, Feed Your Mind) have been extremely successful in providing support to all students.

The Guidance Counselors are available to assist with any academic and social needs you may encounter during the school year.

**Make-up Policy:** It is the student’s responsibility to contact the teacher for make-up work due to an excused absence. All students are expected to make up any missing assignment due to an absence in a timely manner. See page 3 in the student agenda for the specific guidelines.

**Tardy Policy**

Tardy is defined school-wide as not being inside the classroom when the final bell rings. When the final bell rings to be in class, teachers are not to allow students into the room. Tardy students are to report immediately to the ISS supervisor in room 22. Once there, the student’s tardy will be recorded and consequences will be assigned based upon the progressive consequence scale. Students will be given a tardy pass that details their consequence and informs the teacher what time the student left the tardy room. **Students who arrive to the tardy room later than the five minute window will be sent to the office for cutting class.**

**Use of Student Planner**

Students are given one agenda at the beginning of the year and are expected to use the student agenda as an organizational tool as well as a hall pass. See page 13 in the student agenda for the specific guidelines.

<b><u>Evaluations of Student’s progress:</u></b>		<b><u>Fulton County Schools Grading Scale</u></b>	
Tests/ Major Projects	35%	• 90 – 100	A
Labs	25%	• 80 – 89	B
Classwork and Quizzes	20%	• 70 – 79	C
Homework	10%	• 69 and below	F
Semester Exam	10%		

**Suggested Materials and Supplies:**

- Composition Notebook
- Flash Drive
- Index Cards (lined)
- Science Fair Materials
- Calculator (for later units)
- Colored Markers

**Parent-Teacher Communication:**

- Conferences may be scheduled anytime by appointment.
- Home Access will allow frequent access to student’s progress.
- Parents will receive a grade report approximately every four and a half weeks.
- Use of agenda by the student. Parents are encouraged to check the student’s agenda each day.
- Parents may email or phone the teacher.

**Provision for Improving Grades**

1. Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance.
2. Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.\*

\*Fulton County Board of Education, Procedure IHA, page 4

**Parent/Guardian Conferencing**

Conferences may be requested by the teacher or parent. Conference times to choose from are M-TH 7:50 a.m. – 8:20 a.m. or Monday, Wednesdays or Fridays between 10:00 and 11:15 am.

**Parents: Below is a copy of the classroom policies each of my students was given the first day of school. I have included this for you so that you are informed of how day to day procedures are handled in my classroom. Please let me know if you have any questions.**

## POLICIES

### 1. **Homework:**

I do not give a lot of homework since we have lab write ups, but when I do assign homework it will be given a grade for completion and not accuracy. If the student does not have their homework done at the start of the next class, they will receive a zero on that homework assignment. If the student was absent and I check homework the next day for a grade, the student will be excused from that homework.

### 2. **Due Dates:**

Plenty of notice is given for when lab write ups and/or projects are due. Due dates are to be adhered to. If an assignment is turned in late, it will receive a late grade deduction. It is always better to take a late grade than to receive a zero. **BONUS:** Any student that has turned in **ALL** assignments at the end of each semester will be allowed to drop their lowest grade from their semester average! 😊

### 3. **Absent for a lab day:**

If a student misses a lab day, depending on the lab, they can either get the data from their lab partner so that they can complete the lab or they will have to arrange a time to come in and make up the lab (early in the morning, lunch or after school). Which method is done will depend on the lab.

### 4. **Absences in general:**

When the student returns from an absence, please check the “While you were out” folders and calendar. All handouts will be located there and the work missed will be recorded on the calendar. **THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBLITLY.** Students are always given the appropriate amount of time to make up missed work for full credit from excused absences as per county guidelines.

### 5. **Lab Safety:**

Safety in my lab is always first and foremost the number one priority when conducting lab experiments. Lab safety will be studied at the start of the year and each student will sign a lab safety agreement. **Any student found disobeying the lab rules will be removed from the lab immediately and will receive a zero for that particular lab.**

### 6. **Academic dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty (cheating or plagiarism) will result in an immediate office referral to an administrator. If a student copies a lab from someone in one of my classes (this does not mean sharing data, it means copying the lab write up) the two students will split the grade.

### 7. **My space:**

There are certain areas in the room that are off limits to students. These areas include my desk, the store room, and my computer. If you need an item from any of these areas you **must** ask permission first.

### 8. **Eye Wash Station and Emergency Shut Off Panel:**

Opening the eye wash station or pushing the emergency shut offs panel in any non-emergency situation will result in an immediate office referral.

### 9. **Late Passes:**

Guess what? Life happens. I know that there are times when life gets in the way or the student just honestly leaves a completed assignment at home. At the beginning of each semester I will give each student two late passes that will allow them to turn in an item one day late without penalty. **If the student loses their late passes, I will not replace them!**

**I am looking forward to a wonderful year! 😊**

**Signature Page**

**Email Contact:**

As a parent myself, I know that is sometimes frustrating to find out your child missed a major deadline you didn't know about. I would like to be able to send out periodic emails to let you know what is going on in class and of upcoming test dates and lab or project due dates. This way you will have better knowledge of what is happening in the science class. If you would like to be included on these emails, please sign below with you email address. No email addresses will ever be given out without permission and this will only be a means of contacting you regarding science dates etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ **YES! Please include me on the class news emails**

\_\_\_\_\_ (Please **PRINT** email address)

\_\_\_\_\_ **No thanks, I do not wish to receive email updates regarding the science class.**

**Food in the lab:**

Sometimes we might do a lab that we can do with food and when we play review games sometimes the "winning teams" get a candy treat. Please indicate if you are okay with this and please let me know if there is a food allergy I should be aware of.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, my child may participate in any activities that might involve food.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, please do not give any food to my child.

My child has the following allergy you should be aware of. (Please advise me if they have an EPIPEN.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you or someone in your family is in a science related career, would you be willing to volunteer your expertise and/or resources to the Science Department? If so, please check the areas that might interest you.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Judging at the Haynes Bridge Science Fair**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Presenting at Career Day**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Donating Scientific resources**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Other :** \_\_\_\_\_

*Name of Company/Corporation/Organization*

*Your name/Contact Name* \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

*Job Title or Description:*

**Please go over this syllabus with your son or daughter. Please sign below indicating you have read the course syllabus. You need only return the signature page to me and you may keep the syllabus for future reference.**

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class Period** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_