

Physical Science is an introductory course for physics, chemistry, and astronomy. Topics covered will include motion, forces, structure of matter, chemical reactions, chemistry of living systems, basics of the periodic table, density and buoyancy, and Earth in the solar system. All topics will be based on the California State Science Standards for 8<sup>th</sup> grade, which will be tested throughout the year. (You may view the standards at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/scgrade8.asp>) This class is designed to prepare students for the high school courses of freshman physical science, chemistry, and physics. This class will include activity based lessons as well as lessons from the text.

The text used in this course is ***Prentice Hall: Focus on Physical Science***. This text will be staying home with the student. There will also be a variety of additional activities that come from supplement resources.

**Grading:**

**Tests/Quizzes** .....50%  
**Other** (homework, projects, .....50%  
lab activities, in-class work, etc...)

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60 – 69%
F	below 60%

Certain units in this class require the use and practical application of math skills.

**Tests:**

The schedule of testing will vary depending on the material being covered, but a student can expect a chapter test approximately every 2 – 3 weeks. Pop homework quizzes and “*non-pop*” quizzes will be given to assess student progress through the material. Larger comprehensive tests may be given at the end of the units.

**Homework: (Listed on webpage at [hornerjh.com](http://hornerjh.com))**

Homework will be assigned *about* 3-4 times per week. **LATE HOMEWORK IS USUALLY NOT ACCEPTED.** Although I do not accept late homework, I do give each student two homework passes each quarter. These passes are for regular (10 pt) assignments and cannot be used on larger projects. (Each unused homework pass will be worth 10 points of *extra credit* at the end of the quarter.) Typically very little other extra credit is assigned.

**Activities:**

Activities will be interspersed with individual study and classroom lecture. Most group work will be done in class labs; however, each student will be responsible to use the group activity time as an opportunity to learn material which will be assessed on an individual bases. Some projects may need to be completed at home.

**Notebooks:**

I would suggest that you get the type of spiral notebook with 3 ring holes, so that it can easily fit into a 3-ring binder. Keep this notebook for Science ONLY, and make sure it is neat and organized.

**Contact Information:**

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Check progress reports on my webpage, or go to <http://www.fremont.k12.ca.us/horner/staff/jacobson/grades/> and follow the instructions.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(print)

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_