

How to be successful in Mr. Hartmann's Physical Science Class

Many of the concepts studied in this class will rely on concepts and skills that we have previously studied. This means that to be successful in this class you will have to remain current with your knowledge of the concepts that we are studying. Here are some guidelines to help you achieve that goal:

- ❖ Keep a well-organized notebook and review your notes *every night*. Notebooks will be checked randomly and will count towards your participation grade.
- ❖ Complete all homework. Just as in sports practice is important to the achievement of mastery. Homework is graded only for completion not for correctness. A collection of incomplete homeworks indicates a lack of desire and discipline.
- ❖ Come in for extra help when you feel you are getting lost or falling behind. *Don't wait!* It will only cause your confusion to multiply.
- ❖ Participate in class. Just as in sports, being a spectator isn't going to make you a master. Active participation is a key to success.

Successful students embody three main characteristics: ability, desire, and discipline. Without these characteristics even a talented teacher cannot cause a student to learn. You must *want* to learn, you can't be *made* to learn.

Class Participation

The one rule we will all strive to follow in this class is ***Be Respectful***. As a member of this class I require that you are always respectful of those around you. Treating others with respect is the most important aspect of your participation in this class. Without this foundation no one will be able to learn effectively or achieve at his or her highest possible level. To help you more clearly understand exactly what this principle means and how it operates in my classroom the following guidelines have been established:

- ❖ Each student begins each quarter with a 30/30 for a class conduct grade. Any disrespectful behaviors (towards the teacher or towards other students) will cause this grade to be reduced.
- ❖ You must come to class prepared. You will need a notebook, a pen or pencil, and a calculator for class each day. Coming to class unprepared incurs a 3 point penalty in your class conduct grade.
- ❖ You must arrive in class on time. I put a great deal of effort into planning our time together so that you may all learn as effectively as possible. Being late is disruptive and disrespectful to both your classmates and your teacher. Each tardy during the year reduces your class conduct grade by 3 points. The fifth and subsequent tardies also result in teacher detentions. The tenth and subsequent tardies also result in office detentions.
- ❖ You must attempt to remain in class once arriving. It is difficult, if not impossible, to learn effectively if you leave the class frequently. Excessive pass usage may result in a reduction of your class conduct grade.
- ❖ You may restore lost class participation points by avoiding the action that cost you the points in the future. If you approach me about a particular event, and that event has not recurred within a 1 month period of time, points will be restored to your class conduct grade.

Other issues will be dealt with as they arise. No limitations are placed on the point penalties for misbehavior; the teacher reserves the right to remove any student from the classroom if the student is negatively impacting the ability of others to learn.

Grading Policy

Grades are determined using a weighting system. Your grade in each category is determined by averaging your scores on all assignments in that category. Your quarter grade is the sum of your category grades multiplied by their weights. The category weights adopted by the science department for this course are listed below:

Participation	Attendance, Notebooks, Class Problem Sets	25%
Assignments	Informal Labs, Quizzes, Essays, Homework	40%
Assessments	Unit Tests, Performance Tasks, Projects, Formal Lab Reports, Research Papers	35%

A variety of formative and summative assessments determine your grade. Lab reports and quizzes that fail to meet standard may be re-written/re-taken after school within one week. Summative assessments may *not* be retaken. (Students may retake one summative assessment throughout the year if extenuating circumstances can be demonstrated. That is, if you felt you mastered the concepts being assessed but other circumstances prevented you from doing your best. This courtesy is offered to each student only once during the year and is subject to teacher approval.)

Make Up Work/Late Assignments

Students who experience excused absences (such as illness) will be permitted a number of class days equal to the number of days absent to make up all missed work. Once this grace period has passed make up work will not be accepted for credit.

Assignments are due on the dates specified when assigned. They must be turned in by the end of the class period on that day. Work turned in one day late will receive half credit; work turned in more than one day late will not be accepted for credit.

Extra Help

I encourage all students to make use of opportunities outside of class to clarify concepts or improve skills that they have not mastered in class. I am available to students every day after school (except for days where I have other district commitments) until 3:00 pm.