

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade PHYSICAL SCIENCE Welcome Letter



Mrs. Nichole Hantsch

Chenango Forks Middle School

Room 52

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← QR code to website

Text @mrshantsch to  
81010 to get class  
reminders!

**Class Description:** Welcome to Physical Science. We're going to spend the next year learning chemistry and physics, with a little earth and life science mixed in.

Main Topics: Scientific Methodology, Matter, Atoms, The Periodic Table, Energy, Motion and Forces, Newton's Laws.

## Required Materials:

- Class notebook
- Folder
- Pencil or pen

## Additional Materials (for those who prefer their own):

- glue
- colored pencils
- scissors

**Grading:** Each quarter is based on the following category weights:

30% Tests and Quizzes	30% Class work
10% Homework	30% Labs

**All students have the option to do corrections on quizzes to get back half of the points missed.** Students will need to follow the procedure for this (see class website or Schoology) in order to be eligible for receiving back credit.

## Missing Class:

It is the responsibility of the student to make up any work that is missed during an absence, regardless of the reason for the absence. We do MANY labs- they will need to be made up immediately if missed, as not all materials can be kept for more than a few days.

**Missing/Late Assignments:** Work that is not turned in on time will be subject to a loss of 10% of points for the assignment each day that is late. Work that is more than 5 weeks late will not be accepted.

**State Exam/Final:** Students will be taking the NYS Science Exam in late May and early June. It is composed of 2 parts: Performance (measuring the students' ability to complete lab tasks) and Written (Multiple Choice and Short Response). The exam will be counted as the students' final exam and contribute to 10% of their overall grade in the class.

**Classroom Expectations:** *I expect a classroom of respect where we use our time wisely to explore science. I do not expect perfection, but I do expect effort and a positive attitude. You can expect me to be organized, to make class interesting, and to be willing to help out in any way that I can. I do not allow cell phones to be used in my classroom. If a student has a cell phone out, it will be stored safely until the end of the day.*

**\*\*Follow assignment reminders on Remind: text @mrshantsch to 81010\*\***

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# Lab Safety Contract



Science classes are often hands on. Students will be performing activities that may require the use of chemicals, laboratory equipment, and other items, which, if used incorrectly, can be hazardous. To keep our class safe, the rules listed below must be followed at all times. The student and a parent / guardian **must sign the sheet attached to this contract.**

**Please read the entire contract before you sign.**

## - GENERAL SAFETY RULES -

- Follow all instructions carefully. If you do not understand a direction or part of a procedure, **ASK YOUR TEACHER BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE ACTIVITY**
- Be responsible! Horseplay, jokes, and pranks will not be tolerated
- Keep the surfaces and floors of your work area uncluttered during the lab
- Clean up lab area and properly store equipment after the lab is complete
- Report any broken equipment, accidents, or injuries to the teacher immediately
- Know the locations and operating procedures of all safety equipment including: safety showers, sinks, first aid kits, and fire extinguishers
- When wearing goggles, **KEEP THEM ON YOUR FACE**, not on your head!

## CHEMICAL SAFETY



- Wear safety glasses or goggles at all times when working with chemicals
- Don't touch any part of your face without first washing your hands
- Never eat or drink in the lab
- Follow teacher instructions for proper chemical disposal
- Consider all chemicals to be dangerous - don't touch, smell or mix chemicals unless instructed to do so by the teacher. Many chemicals look deceptively like water!

## FIRE SAFETY



- Use caution when using matches, hot plates, burners or torches
- Only light burners when instructed to do so and never leave a lit burner unattended
- Don't heat any substances without an okay from the teacher
- Use tongs or oven mitts when handling hot containers (Hot glass looks like cold glass)
- Always wear goggles when heating glass
- Dress properly - avoid loose or baggy clothing or jewelry and tie long hair back

## GLASS & SHARP-OBJECT SAFETY



- Handle all glassware with care, never pickup broken glass with your bare hands
- Never run during lab time, especially with sharp objects! (Generally a good rule in life)
- Always hand sharp objects with the blade facing towards yourself

## INFORMATION SHEET AND VERIFICATION OF AGREEMENT

Please fill out, sign, and return this portion of the disclosure document / safety contract. The first two pages of the document should be kept in the student's binder or notebook. Complete copies of the disclosure are available on demand from Mrs. Hantsch.

Student Name (please **print** legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

**Emails:** I like to keep a list of parent / guardian email addresses in the event that I need to contact you to discuss the needs of your student. If you are willing, please write your email address below (email addresses will be used strictly for classroom purposes)

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

**Class Updates:** If you would like to receive the class updates about projects, tests, etc, please text @mrshantsch to 81010.

**Notes for Mrs. Hantsch:** Please include any information that you would like me to know about your student.

### **"LEGAL STUFF"**

**Student Agreement:** By signing as a student, I am saying that I have read and understand Mrs. Hantsch's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Science Disclosure Document and Safety Contract. I am also agreeing to follow lab safety procedures. I understand that by not signing, I may forfeit my privilege to participate in future classroom activities and labs, which may affect my grade in this class.

Student *Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent / Guardian Agreement:** By signing as the parent or guardian of the above student, I show that I am aware of the classroom policies and procedures as stated in Mrs. Hantsch's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Science Disclosure Document, and know what is expected of my child. I realize that by not signing this document my child may forfeit his / her privilege to participate in classroom activities and labs.

Parent / Guardian Name (please **print** legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Students should return this last page to Mrs. Hantsch and keep the rest of the disclosure in their class notebook or folder.*