**Eighth Grade Physical Science with Mrs. Sanders (215)**

During this course we will study chemistry and physics with the intention of setting a strong foundation for high school physical science courses. Students will practice critical thinking in a variety of ways including experimental design, drawing and defending logical conclusions, and using rule-based thinking to approach new situations. We will use the following Prentice Hall Texts: Chemical Building Blocks (2007), Chemical Interactions (2007), and Motion, Forces, and Energy (2005).

**Class Expectations**

Students are always expected to be respectful and responsible.

Students should have homework out and be ready to start warm up work as soon as the bell rings.

During lab activities, students should

1. Follow all instructions and procedures carefully.

2. Keep discussions related to the activity and at a reasonable volume.

3. Report all spills and injuries immediately.

4. If the lights flicker, stop to listen for directions.

**Grading**

Weighting of assignments will be determined based on length, difficulty, availability of resources etc. with mini assignments weighing as little as 5 points and tests and projects carrying a maximum of 100 points.

**Academic Procedures**

A maximum of 5 percentage points of extra credit may be earned each quarter. There are on-going extra credit options throughout the year as well as occasional offerings that relate to specific topics as we cover them.

Homework will be checked for homework strikes, but class work that is completed at home will still be graded for accuracy as class work.

Make up work can be collected from the box in my room. Absent students should speak with me upon their return to arrange times to discuss notes, make up labs, et al. Students should get work ahead of time for anticipated absences or partial day absences.

Late classwork/ projects will be assessed a penalty of 5% per day late.

**Extra Help**

I am available for extra help at various times within and after the school day. Students are welcome to drop by to see if I am available or make an appointment. Students are encouraged to seek help and feedback before assignment deadlines. I also post additional enrichment/study materials on my website.

**Contact Me**

Please feel free to contact me anytime.

psanders@sttimothys.org

phone 919-787-3011 ext. 2805