Some class time will be spent discussing the difficulties encountered with the homework exercises. Homework is collected and graded on completeness, effort, neatness and the following of directions. Vocabulary and class notes are important in understanding science concepts and they will be organized in the 8.5 x 11 Mead 5 Star 1 subject spiral bound notebook. Supplies are expected to be brought to each class and all must be purchased by the end of the first week of school.

CALCULATORS: A graphing calculator is an essential tool for many math/science courses and students should plan to purchase one if they will continue in higher math. Either the TI-84 plus or the TI-NSpire calculator is recommended. The graphing features of the calculator will rarely be used in Physical Science; however, if you plan to take Algebra II and higher math courses, it is an extremely useful, and necessary, tool to have.

HOMEWORK: Homework problems for every section will be assigned on a regular basis. After each chapter point, the student will be assigned the section review for the chapter. Each student is expected to study the assigned material and to work the assigned problems before coming to class. Some class time will be spent discussing the difficulties encountered with the homework exercises. Homework is collected and graded on completeness, effort, neatness and the following of directions. Vocabulary and class notes are important in understanding science concepts and they will be organized in the 8.5 x 11 Mead 5 Star 1 subject spiral bound notebook. This notebook will be passed in by the end of each chapter and graded. Homework will be listed on the board and updated on my website each week. You will not be successful in this course without doing the homework.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS: The course content will be taught primarily through a series of PowerPoint lectures and labs with ample class time being reserved for student questions and interaction. Classroom participation is a definite part of the instructional process. Students are expected to ask questions in class and demonstrate their ability to solve problems. PowerPoint presentations can be downloaded from my website to help the student take more thorough notes.

TESTING: Eleven tests are scheduled as well as a mandatory, comprehensive final exam. Vocabulary quizzes will be given for each chapter. All tests and quizzes (unless pop) will be announced with ample opportunity for preparation.

GRADING POLICY: Grades are determined on a point system. Tests are worth 100 points, labs range from 25-100 points, vocabulary quizzes are 25 points, homework approximately 10 points, notebook checks 15 points, and pop quizzes are 5 to 10 points. There will be quarterly projects worth 100 points. The Final Comprehensive Exam will be worth 20% of your final semester grade. Gradelink is available for students and parents to access their grades. Please obtain your student code from the office.

EXTRA CREDIT: There are three options available for extra points. First, on test day, there will be an additional test question in which the students can earn up to five points for their answer. This is only available for students who are present in class on scheduled test day. Second, once a quarter, students can either complete an extra science activity from my collection or attend an approved, free, educational lecture. Activities are worth up to 10 points and may require the student to make arrangements to come in early to school or stay after school. Approved lectures will be listed on my website and are worth 10 points.

LATE WORK: As per the DBCS student handbook, “work that is one day late will receive a 10% penalty and work that is more than one day late will receive a zero, but still should be completed.” Work must be passed in at the beginning of the class period, not later in the day in order to receive full credit. Parents and administration will be contacted if a student is consistently late with assignments.
CODE OF CONDUCT: It is the philosophy of the science department that all students should adhere to the student code of conduct found in the Student Handbook, should come to class prepared to learn, and should demonstrate behavior conducive to learning at all times. Coming to class prepared to learn includes, but is not limited to, having all of the necessary supplies, arriving on time, staying the full time, and participating in the activities of the class. Inappropriate or disruptive behavior may result in a student being removed from the class. Students are expected to have cell phones, cameras, and other electronic devices turned off and out of sight during class or they will be confiscated. Hazardous laboratory behavior will result in immediate removal from class and a zero for the assignment. Safety goggles must be worn during lab at all times. Students without safety goggles will not be able to participate in lab and will receive a zero for the assignment.

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is important and anticipated. The student is responsible for material missed due to absence and is expected to make up missed assignments, quizzes, or tests as per the DBCS student handbook. Assignments not made up in the time given will result in a zero. Make-up quizzes and tests may be different and more difficult. Frequent absences disrupt the continuity of learning and will affect subject comprehension and ultimately grades!

SECTIONS TO BE COVERED:

- 1A What in the World?
- 1B Science with a View!
- 1C The Work of Physical Science
- Extension: Scientific Method & Variables
- 2A The Particle Model of Matter
- 2B Classification of Matter
- 2C Changes in Matter
- 2D Changes of State
- 3A Scientific Measurements
- 3B Accuracy and Precision in Measuring
- 3C The Science of Measuring
- 4A Introduction to Mechanics
- 4B Kinematics: Describing Motion
- 5A Forces
- 5B Newton’s Laws of Motion
- 5C Gravity and Free Fall
- 6A The Nature of Energy
- 6B Classification of Energy
- 6C Conservation Laws
- 7A Work and Mechanical Advantage
- 7B Levers and the Law of Torques
- 7C Wheels, Gears, and Pulleys
- 7D Inclined Planes, Wedges, and Screws
- 8A Properties of Fluids
- 8B Hydraulics and Fluid Flow
- 8C Gas Laws
- 9A Thermal Energy
- 9B Temperature
- 9C Heat
- 10A Static Electricity and Electric Fields
- 10B Detecting, Transferring, and Storing Charges
- 10C Electrical Current and Ohm’s Law
- 10D Electrical Circuits and Safety
- 11A Magnetism and Magnets
- 11B Electromagnetism
- 11C Using Electromagnetism

Any changes to the above will be noted in class and on my website.